"Cheval de St. Jean."—A distant correspondent, informing me of a discovery he has made, writes, "Si je n'ai pas trouvé le cheval de St. Jean, j'ai trouvé," &c. The meaning of the expression is pretty evident, but I should like to know its exact application, and how it originated. Littre seems not to notice it, nor can I find it among the many proverbial sayings about the horse given in Rolland's 'Faune Populaire de la France.'

APFIEL.

"Perfide Albion."—What was the origin of the phrase "Perfide Albion," which, I believe, was first used by Napoleon I.?

ERNEST CRESSWELL.

[In a sermon preached at Metz on the Circumcision Bossuet said: "L'Angleterre, ah! la perfide Angleterre, que le renipart de ses mere rendoit inaccessible aux Romains, la foi du Sauveur y est abordée." See 4th S. iii. 32.]

ENGLISH AMBASSADOR AND NAPOLEON.—What British ambassador did Napoleon deliberately deceive or break his word to in an important matter?

ERNEST CRESSWELL.

SOURCE OF QUOTATION.—In what poem of what author occurs the line
Leaving the final issues in his hands?

MARGARET G. CROW.

"The mains more."—This expression occurs, as far as I know, only in Galt's 'Sir Andrew Wylie.'

"That fool antic mob of latherons and merry-andrews, devouring the mains more here the ither night wi' their gallanting;"—Ch. xvi.

"Some thought it waas come to pass that ye would ever consent to let Miss Mary tak' him, though he had the main's more."—Ch. xvi.

What is the meaning of "the mains more" or "the main's more"? Is the expression of Gaelic origin?

A. L. MAYHEW.

Oxford.

MEDALLION OF WALTER SCOTT.—A bronze medallion of Sir Walter Scott in my possession bears one word in its legend which is for me hopelessly obscure. Its diameter is two and a half inches, and its thickness twice that of a silver dollar. The field of the obverse is filled with a head in high relief with the word Scott behind it, the whole encircled by a string of corollas of some flower which I cannot name.

The reverse shows a Muse (Clio) at full length, standing, and seeming to espay some approaching candidate for fame. Her left hand rests on a cippus, from which a scroll hangs down inscribed "To great men." In her right hand she holds a stylus.

In the exergue below are the following words: "Pub. by S. Parker, London, 1827.—T. Stothard, R.A., d., A. J. Stothard, f."

The words incised on the edge or broad rim are: "Bardorum citharas patrio qui reddidit istro." The word istro is a riddle for which I find no sphinx. Who can give me an interpretation? But what I desiderate I hope to discover through the columns of 'N. & Q.,' or that, to shun delay, some one of its readers will vouchsafe me a postal of the wisdom of the East, "posted o'er land and ocean without rest" to my corner of the Far West.

JAMES D. BUTLER.

Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.

'Rombert: A Tale of Carolina,' 2 vols., New York, Francis, 252, Broadway, 1835. Who wrote this?

D. M.

"Honours are easy."—With whom did the phrase originate, and what is its exact meaning?

D. M.

[Colloquially it signifies at whist that honours are divided, and that neither party can score them. Consult 'H.E.D.,' in which the first use quoted occurs in 1834.]

SMITH PEREGRINE FIELDING was admitted to Westminster School on 16 July, 1781. Can any correspondent give me particulars of his parentage and career?

G. F. R. B.

Foley.—Paul Foley was admitted to Westminster School in 1767, another Foley (whose Christian name is not given in the Admission Book) in 1806, and Henry Samuel Foley in 1813. I should be glad to learn any particulars concerning them.

G. R. R.

PARODY ON 'THE MISTLETOE BOUGH.'—Can any of your readers tell me where a parody can be found of the above, beginning
The gates were closed at Westminster Hall, and having the refrain to each verse,
Oh, what a flare up!

I believe it contains allusions to the burning of the Houses of Parliament in 1834. It is not in Hamilton's collection of parodies.

W. B. H.

CALVIN LETTERS.—In the Earl of Chichester's 'Diary' his lordship jotted down a conversation he had with De Montier, and the latter assured him that in the king's library at Paris were to be found letters wherein Calvin acknowledged himself to be an atheist. Are these letters still extant?

D. M. R.

"Moving heaven and earth."—There is a Latin saw, "Flectere si nequeo superos, Acheronta movebo," from which I opine that