the side of which there is a room still called the Shakespeare Coffee-room."

If there are no drawings in existence of the above old inns, I think that photographs should be taken of those remaining before they are demolished: I may state that the Vine Inn, Bishopsgate Street, was pulled down last year; and we are, I am informed, shortly to lose the Old Spread Eagle Inn, in Gracechurch Street. W. D.

**Inscription on a Tombstone.** — Will any of your readers say what author the following line, which I found on a gravestone in a Highland churchyard, is taken from, if it is not original? —

"Homo fugit rapide lethum: invadit inertes."

It is intended for an hexameter, but as it stands there is neither "rhyme nor reason" in it, though if we read "Horsa" for "Homo," the scansion and the sense will be made out.

THOMAS OUGHTON, a proctor in the Court of Arches published —

"Ordo Judiciorum; or, Method of Proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Courts of England and Ireland, relating to the Canon and Civil Law, with large Notes and Observations." Lond. 2 vols. 4to, 1728, 1738.

Where can any account be found of the author of this learned and valuable work? S. Y. R.

**Political Satires.** — "New Tory and Whig Guide." — In the year 1819 there appeared two exceedingly clever works of a satirical description, the *New Tory* and the *New Whig Guide.* The former is perhaps the best of the two, although the latter is exceedingly good. In a leading article in a number of the *Standard* published last year, it is asserted that the admirable squib denominated "The Trial of Henry Brougham for Mutiny," in which the future chancellor is charged with calling the Right Honourable George Ponsonby, the leader of the opposition, "an old woman," was written by Lord Palmerston. Is this the case? I know from positive testimony that the *English Melodies* were written by the late Sir Alexander Boswell, Bart.

From an entry in the sixth volume of Moore's *Journal,* we learn, p. 178, that Paul Methuen, Esq., afterwards Lord Methuen, was the "author of almost all those [in the *Tory Guide*] about the Rat Club, which are certainly some of the best." It would be very desirable to ascertain the respective authors of the other articles in these very amusing volumes, which merit a place in the library of those who collect facetiae. J. M.

WESTON, EARL OF PORTLAND. — Where can I find any detailed account of the descendant of Richard Weston, first Earl of Portland, and particularly of Thomas, the fourth and last Earl, who died A.D. 1688? Whereupon, as Banks states in his *Extinct and Dormant Peerages,* the title became extinct for want of heirs male of the first Earl surviving?

HISTORICUS MINOR.

"**Primitive History from the Creation to Cadmus.**" — Some years ago I purchased at an obscure book-stall a portion of this work in sheets, comprising the first 200 pages, the margins of which are literally covered with additions and corrections in the hand of the writer, evidently with a view to its future republication. Subsequent to this I obtained the remainder of the work also in sheets but without any writing on it, and had the whole carefully bound so as to preserve the notes. It was published at Chichester in 1789, and dedicated by the writer, "W. Williams, Esq., formerly of St. John's College, Cambridge," to the Prince of Wales; but this dedication has been crossed over, and on the blank side of the leaf another appears in MS. addressed, "To the Members of the University of Cambridge in General; To the Members of St. John's College in Particular." As the work contains an immense amount of research and much reconcile learning, I would be glad to obtain some information respecting the writer, for whose name I have searched several biographical dictionaries in vain. T. C. SMITH.

**Quotation Wanted.** — Christopher Love being brought to trial on a charge of High Treason in 1651, made a long defence, in the course of which he said —

"It is a maxim in the Law (I have read it in Divinity-Books), Ampliandi sunt favores, et in peenis benignior interpretatio facienda." — See State Trials, folio, 1742, vol. ii. p. 188.

Where is the foregoing maxim to be found? MELETES.

**Reading Pointer.** — Some years ago a person was convicted of stealing a *reading-pointer,* an instrument in the form of a hand and finger extended, used by the readers of the Hebrew Scriptures. Can any reader of "N. & Q." give a reference to the trial? E.

**Shelves in Wiltshire.** — Mr. Cobbett, in his *Rural Rides* through the down counties, refers to "the thousands and thousands of acres of ploughed lands in *sheltes,* in Wilts alone." "The side of a steep hill," he tells his readers, "is made into the shape of stairs; only the rising parts more sloping than those of a stairs, and deeper in proportion" (p. 457). On these *sheltes* Mr. Cobbett founds his hypothesis of population, which he contends was as great in the early days of England as in the present; and he adds: "The fact is, I dare say, that the country has never varied much in the gross amount of its population; but formerly the people were evenly spread over the country, instead of being, as the greater part of them now are, collected together in great masses; where, for the greater part, the idlers live on the labour of the industrious."