NOTES AND QUERIES.

(2) "'the wicked necessity of rhyming.'" ('L. and J.', Jan. 22, 1821).
In my selection from Byron's letters, 2nd edition, 1936, p. 283, I referred to Milton's Preface to 'Paradise Lost,' 1668. See rather, perhaps, Gray, letter to Mason, Jan. 13, 1768: "the necessity of rhyming is one great obstacle to it" (i.e. to "extreme conciseness of expression, yet pure, perspicuous, and musical.").

(3) "'that was, or is, or is to be.'" ('Detached Thoughts,' 86; clxxi, 403).
My previous references were to Scripture. In a note to 'The Island,' iv, 193, however, Byron himself furnishes the source: "The reader will recollect the epigram of the Greek anthology, or its translation into most of the modern languages—
Whoe'er thou art, thy master see—
He was, or is, or is to be.
E. H. Coleridge points out, in an additional note (Byron's Works, Poetry V, 633), that "Byron is quoting from memory an 'Illustration' in the notes to 'Collections from the Greek Anthology,' by the Rev. Robert Bland, 1813, p. 402—
Whoe'er thou art, thy lord and master see.
Thus was my Slave, thou art, or thou shalt be.
This couplet was written by George Granville, Lord Lansdowne (1667-1735) as an 'Inscription for a figure representing the God of Love.'"

Compare also Pope, 'Essay on Criticism,' 253-4:
Whoe'er thinks a faultless piece to see,
Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be.
R. G. HOWARTH.

STEAMSHIP EXCURSION, 1826.—In a recent Catalogue, Mr. Bernard Halliday of Leicester describes a broadside handbill announcing a steamship excursion in 1826, which he claims to be the earliest of its kind. He does not state where the excursion was to be or the name of the steamer, but he points out that the earliest use of the word excursion given by the 'O.E.D.' is 1850. His broadside is therefore twenty-four years earlier, and it is thus worth recording in 'N. and Q."
W. ROBERTS.

BEAUTY IN WARTIME POSTAGE STAMPS.—Note may be made of the significant fact that, the exigencies of civil war notwithstanding, the government of General Franco (in which the minister of foreign affairs is the vice-president, General Francisco Gomez Jordana y Souza) has found time to issue new postage stamps for Morocco ('Marruecos, Protectorado Español') which bear distinctively beautiful designs, themselves tributes to Moorish culture and civilisation. The designer is Señor M. Bertuchi; each scene is described; and the stamps are products of Messrs. Waterlow and Sons.

FREDERIC CONNELL WHITE.

A LETTER OF BYRON.—The following text of a letter from Byron to Lord Erskine, 10 Sept., 1823, is copied from a recent catalogue of Goodspeed's Book Shop, Boston. As the letter is not in the standard edition of Byron before me, it is possibly worth recording in 'N. and Q."
The Greek deputies have requested an introduction to you and I willingly comply with their wishes. I received your letter in the Greek cause (which I propose to have translated) some time ago—Your eloquence was never more nobly exerted—your efforts on this occasion will not form the least illustrious portion of a life so dear to fame and to freedom. That it may be prolonged for the sake of your friends and your country is the wish of all in common with your most respectful and very affectionate friend and servant.
NOEL BYRON.

OLYBRIUS.

FABLE: MOUSE BANISHED INTO A CHEESE.—In Chapman's 'Chabot,' V. ii. 178, we read, "like the mouse in the fable, that having offended to deserve death, begg'd he might be banished into a Parmesan." Dr. Parrott's note runs, "I have been unable to trace any form of the fable here alluded to." The last line of the prologue to D'Avenant's second part of 'The Siege of Rhodes' is this—"Like an old rat retire to Parmesan." And La Fontaine has a fable, 'Le Rat qui s'est retiré du monde'—"... dans un fromage de Hollande." What his source may have been I do not know. The notion is a soft job, rather than a delightful sentence for an offender as in Chapman.
G. G. L.

TOWARDS A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE EPITAPH (See clxxiii. 349, 367; clxxiv. 85).—The following item occurs in a current catalogue from Halliday of Leicester. The number prefixed continues the previous lists.
W. W. GILL.