it was some diabolical conveyance that had brought his Satanic Majesty from the lower realms to visit the United States. I am inclined to look with favour on this application of the propelling power of steam. Not improbably it is destined not at no distant day to produce incalculably great and beneficial changes in our mode of voyaging.”

I have heard that when the first English steamboat came into Portsmouth a court-martial then sitting broke up in haste, and all the captains rushed to behold the "unnatural monster," as my great-uncle calls it; but the president, unable to follow their example, was forced to sit and wait till they had satisfied their souls with gazing and were content to return to their judicial duties. If I had been the prisoner I should have run away—or tried.

C. F. S. Warren, M.A.

Farnborough, Banbury.

LOVES AND LOUVRES (6th S. vi. 86).—In this connexion the passage in Minsheu is curious: "A lover or tunnel on the top of house à Gal, l'ouvert i. apertus, a place open to let out the smoke." But these boards, called lover or louver boards, are quite distinct from the boards of the same name used by the Dutch smacks placed to leeward to enable them to luff or keep close up to the wind, from which they would otherwise drift owing to their bottoms being broad and shallow. This is from the Dutch loef, from loeven, to ply to windward. This is a singular instance of an out-of-the-way word formed from two separate roots, and though spelt the same retaining still its two distinct meanings. I know of no dictionary recording it.

C. A. Ward.

Mayfair.

OLD YORKSHIRE CUSTOMS (6th S. vi. 146).—The practice of placing a plate of salt on the breast of a corpse is a general one among the labouring classes of Dudley and that district, though there it is done not with the object indicated by Mr. Chapman, but with the idea that it acts as a disinfectant and purifies the apartment.

B. R.

The custom to which my friend Mr. Chapman refers is perhaps more common than he supposes. It was followed in my own house some years ago (without my previous knowledge or sanction), but I found that in addition to the plate of salt on the breast there was a larger vessel of salt under the bed on which the corpse was laid. I have always heard that the reason for placing the plate of salt on the breast was that given by Mr. Chapman's correspondent, who is, if I may guess at his identity, well acquainted with North Yorkshire traditions.

C. G. C.

Richmond, Yorkshire.

I remember seeing a corpse some twenty years since at Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire, on the breast of which was placed a pewter plate containing salt. On inquiring for what purpose it was placed there the female in attendance said it was to prevent the corpse swelling.

Lower Heyford, Oxon.

See the Rev. T. F. Thiselton Dyer's Domestic Folk-lore, pp. 59, 60.

F. C. Birkbeck Terry.

"DOMUM MANSIT; LANAM FECIT" (6th S. vi. 146).—In the Surgeon's Daughter there appears to have been no alteration made in the Latinity of this epitaph, as "Domum Mansit—Lanam Fecit" is quoted without comment at the end of the "Centenary Edition" of the novel in question, published by Messrs. A. & C. Black.

Henry G. Hope.

Freegrove Road, N.

LYTTON (6th S. vi. 146).—Lytton is the A.-S. lytton, a sepulchre. The Rev. W. D. Parish gives it in his Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect under the form litten.

F. C. Birkbeck Terry.

Lytton for "churchyard" is the same as litten, given by Halliwell with the same sense. The etymological spelling should rather be litten; and, of course, this word explains Lytton when occurring as a proper name. It is formed, by assimilation of l from ct, from the A.-S. lic-tun, i.e., "a corpse-town," compounded of lic, body, and tun, town. Compare lithgate and Lichfield. The word is not very common, but was used by King Alfred in his translation of Beda, lib. iii. c. 17, where it occurs in the dative case: "And ther on thea broðræ licväne bebyrged,...i.e., and there buried in the cemetery of the brethren.

Walter W. Skeat.

The burial-ground attached to the Holy Ghost Chapel, Basingstoke, has been for centuries, and still is, called the liten. The word is doubtless derived from A.-S. lic, a corpse. In the book of accounts of the Guild of the Holy Ghost, 1557–1654, recently published, the word is variously spelt litten, litten, lytton.

J. S. A.

Basingstoke.

CONNY (6th S. vi. 146).—I have before now heard the expression "snug and conny" where "conny" would appear to mean comfortable. The word struck me at the time, but I could not get any information about it. Halliwell, s.v., says, "See canny."

F. J. F. Gantillon.

THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE ENGLISH FORCES NEAR PORTSMOUTH, 1545 (6th S. vi. 146).—I can inform your correspondent Tiny Tim, on the authority of the late John Britton, F.S.A., that a key to the engraving was not published with the print. The plate was engraved at the expense of the Society of Antiquaries, whose president, Sir