
Daniel Hipwell.

Fancy Subjects of Paintings.—I came the other day upon a whimsical list of these which was supplied me by an eminent savant. I ventured to transcribe it for the amusement of readers of ‘N. & Q.’ It is obvious that the list may be indefinitely extended. I shall be glad to know if any collection of these absurdities is already in print, and only hope it is not too trifling for your columns:

Siegé of Troy. By Teniers.
Cats Fighting. By Claude.
Cleaning Fish. By Pickersgill, R.A.
Scene in a Hospital. By Ward, R.A.
The Arrest. By Constable, R.A.

Urbain.

 Queries.

We must request correspondents desiring information on family matters of only private interest, to affix their names and addresses to their queries, in order that the answers may be addressed to them direct.

Col. Churchill and Sarah Jennings.—It is stated by Burke that Col. Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, was married to Sarah Jennings in 1678; but many persons suppose a previous marriage had taken place between these two. Can any one inform me whether such was the case; and, if so, when and where that ceremony took place?

Gorhambury, St. Albans.

Proposed Sale of English Convicts into Slavery.—In the course of a debate in the House of Commons on the subject of female transportation, on April 7, 1819, Mr. H. G. Bennet, member for Shrewsbury, said:

‘He had no high opinion of the tender sympathies of Ministers on those subjects. He had in his recollection what passed on the subject of convicts in the year 1787, when they were first sent out; when (the House would scarcely believe it) it was proposed, and discussed in the Privy Council, whether the convicts at that time should not be sold to the Bey of Tripoli as slaves. This proposition (the proposition of Lord Auckland) was considered, though, of course, rejected; but it showed how little disposed the Government were at that time to attend to the situation of the convicts.’—Hansard, First Series, vol. xxxix. f. 1441.

Does any proof exist of foundation for this story?

Alfred F. Robbins.

Sir Anthony Browne, of Cobs, Governor of Calais.—This is the description given by Dugdale of the father of Anne Browne, wife of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. In the lists of the Deputies and Lieutenants of Calais I find no such name. Was he the same person as Sir Anthony Browne of Cowdray? Dugdale makes no mention of Anne in his pedigree of Browne of Cowdray. If she were a daughter of Sir Anthony of Cowdray I presume it was that Anthony who was standard-bearer to Henry VII, and married Lucy de Montacute. But in this case Suffolk’s first and second wives were aunt and niece; and this seems the more likely, since the Pope’s Bull concerning his complicated matrimonial arrangements recounts that Anne and Margaret were “related in the second and third degree.” Can any one settle the point of Sir Anthony’s identity, and also be so good as to answer the following questions: 1. Where is Cobs? 2. What is meant by “related in the second and third degree”? 3. In what manner was Suffolk’s grandmother “sister to the father of the former husband of Margaret”? Suffolk’s grandmothers were Elizabeth Wingfield and—wife of Sir Henry Bruyn, and Margaret’s former husbands were Sir John Mortimer and Robert Downes. I suppose Lady Bruyn is the grandmother thus indicated; but what was her maiden name?

Hermttrude.

The Norman People.—Can any of your readers tell me the author of ‘The Norman People, and their Existing Descendants in the British Dominions and the United States of America,’ published by Henry S. King & Co. in 1874?

R. A. E.

Stanzas written after a long absence.

Mary! ten chequered years have pass’d
Since we beheld each other last;
Yet Mary! I remember thee,
And thou, I think, remembrst me.

Six stanzas—then the eighth and last:

Meantime thro’ many a varied year,
Of thee no tidings did I hear;
And thou didst never hear my name,
Save from the vague reports of fame.

Can any one give me the author of the above lines?

J. D. O.

Strange Trades.—Being about to publish a book on ‘Queer Trades, Past and Present,’ I shall be glad of early information as to the origin and meaning of any of the following curious ways to earn a living, which are copied from the recent census list: “Button-up camberel maker,” “idle-back maker,” “learnam-pire,” “pony-sticker,” “scratch-brusher,” “spittle-maker,” “bull dog burner.” For any other information under this head I shall also be extremely grateful.

Charles Robinson.

[Is not a scratch-brusher one who uses a scratch-brush for putting a surface on gold ornaments?]

A Picture of ‘Lavinia,’ by Charles Robertson, artist in water colours, painted at Gains-
NOTES AND QUERIES.

— Can any one inform me of the parentage and family of Robertson, or of that of his wife, a Miss Brierly, or of friends who patronized him in his early career as an artist in Lincolnshire?—with the object of tracing the picture, which is a missing family portrait.

M. F. Rolleston.

—the words "Hispan Bex Archid. Austria." Another phrase, which is common in the Midland counties?

— Can any reader give a description of this interesting series of Arabic traditions, especially with regard to a translation of any portion?

W. D. Parish.

LIKE STATION.—What is the origin of this phrase, which is common in the Midland counties?

A Leicestershire woman, in a description of some village festivities the other day, told me that the church bells were "ringing like station."

O. C. B.

BELLS.—Can any of your readers learned in campanology tell me if the name of Marc le Ser is known as a bell-founder? My friend and neighbour Col. Trotter, of Dyrham Park, near Barnet, has in his possession a bell weighing 41 lbs., height 12 in., greatest width 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) in., the inscription on which runs as follows: "Marc Le Ser heft me ghegoten MVCLXXXIII."* There are three medallions on the sides of the bell; the largest a coin or medal of Philip II. of Spain, the legend on which is almost obliterated, but I think I can distinguish the words "Hispan Rex Archid. Austria." Another appears to be Abraham kneeling before the three angels. A third represents St. John writing his Gospel, one leg apparently resting on his eagle. The fourth is a pagan altar decked with a garland, an angel. A third represents St. John writing his Gospel, one leg apparently resting on his eagle. The fourth is a pagan altar decked with a garland, a female figure standing on either side, and a small nude figure, of a god I suppose, standing on the altar, and holding in the right hand (and apparently in both like Fame in the Guards Memorial), a wreath over the head of the figure beneath.

Henry H. Gibbs.

STALLED: STALLED OX.—Can your readers supply me with an explanation of the term stalled, which is of every day use in the West Riding of Yorkshire?—e.g., "I am stalled of walking, talking, or eating" is used as an equivalent for the expression "I am tired of walking, talking, or eating." Is this phrase connected with the phrase "a stalled ox," used in the Old Testament; and if so, does it, as originally used, refer to a surfeit?

F. W. M.

THE ARABIC CATENA.—Can any reader give me information about, or a reference to White, the first proprietor of the famous chocolate house? Cunningham gives the date of the establishment as circa 1698, but no notice of the owner. The records quoted by him relate only to the club still existing.

W. B.

WHITE, FOUNDER OF THE CHOCOLATE HOUSE.—Can any reader give me information about, or a reference to White, the first proprietor of the famous chocolate house? Cunningham gives the date of the establishment as circa 1698, but no notice of the owner. The records quoted by him relate only to the club still existing.

W. C. B.

COINS.—In William Jerdan's 'Autobiography,' vol. ii. p. 26, occurs a poem entitled 'Everywhere Happy,' founded on the motto "Ubicumque Felix," which we are there informed was impressed on the imperial coins during the short rule of Napoleon I. in the Isle of Elba. Were any coins with this inscription really issued; and do specimens exist in the cabinets of collectors; or are they, like the pennies of Richard I. and the brass currency of the Emperor Otho, among coins that might have been but are not?

IT. M. & A.

— Can any reader give me information about, or a reference to White, the first proprietor of the famous chocolate house? Cunningham gives the date of the establishment as circa 1698, but no notice of the owner.

W. B.

BELL INSCRIPTION.—The late Mr. Richard Jefferies tells his readers in 'Field and Hedgerow,' p. 24, that at Dandelion Castle, in Kent, there is a bell inscribed:—

John de Dandelion with his great dog.

Brought over this bell in a mill cog.

Such a legend on a bell is passing strange. Is there not some mistake? If the bell exists, can any one tell its date?

Astarte.

DEGREES OF FALSEHOOD.—Who was it who said, "There are three degrees of falsehood: the first is a fib, the second is a lie, and then come statistics?"

St. Swithin.

RAIN OF BLOOD.—In the Dublin Review for April it is stated, without any authority being given, that there has recently fallen at Missignadi, near Oppido Mamertina, in Italy, a shower of blood, which on "minute chemical analysis has proved...to be bonâ fide blood, [or] at least to exhibit its characteristics" (p. 446). Can any of your readers throw light on this strange assertion?

Anon.

SUTTON.—How many places called Sutton are there in the vicinity of Liverpool?

J. H. F.

DE TOTENAL—DE TOTENA.—Was the town of Totness, in Devon, named after the Seigneur De Todena or Toesney in Normandy, alias De Belvoir or Beauvoir, of the castle of that name in England? Judhaël de Mayenne, Earl of Brittany, was lord of Totness temp. William the Conqueror. He built Barnstaple Castle.

T. W. Carey.

THORNTON FAMILY.—I am deeply interested in tracing the ancestry of the Thornton family, who came to the Virginia colony from Yorkshire about 1672-9. What I want specially to know is the lineage of one Lieut.-General Sir Charles Wade Thornton, who was Lieutenant-Governor of Hull.

* Mark le Ser has cast me 1574.