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NOTES AND QUERIES.

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a poem, De partu Virginis, where a shepherd sings lines from the fourth Ecloue to the Infant Jesus—a work that earned for the author the title of “the Christian Virgil.” In another set of poems, describing his piscatorial experiences, the fishermen talk Virgil. Every year Sannazaro celebrated Virgil’s birthday with a banquet, at which a negro servant recited Propertius, for whom the poet had a great admiration.

And as he was closely related to Virgil in poetic genius, so too they were neighbours in the tomb. For Frederick of Naples rewarded Sannazaro’s loyalty with an estate named Mergillina, of which the poet was perhaps too fond. It was on the beautiful hill of Posilippo, west of the city, and had once belonged to the Angevin monarchs. When the Prince of Orange, as general of the Emperor Charles V, invaded the Kingdom of Naples to drive out the French, his soldiers ravaged the estate, and demolished a tower that added greatly to its charm. The story is that Sannazaro died of grief when he heard the news, and he was buried in a church that he had himself built in close proximity to Virgil’s tomb. That tomb had a very living interest for the Neapolitans; the mighty wizard of the Middle Ages, who lay there, gave them protection and their beautiful climate, and it was a place of frequent pilgrimage for the poets of the Renaissance period. Bembo’s neat epitaph on the marble monument, erected to commemorate his friend, has been thus translated:

Da fiori al cener santo
Del morto Sannazaro,
Ch’è prossimo per canto
Come per tomba, a Maro.

T. PERCY ARMSTRONG.

BOOKS FIGURED ON FUNERAL MONUMENTS (clxxi. 157, 194, 209).—The quaintest, and I suppose one of the oldest, examples of this must be the tomb of classical times now in the museum at Athens. A tomb had been in existence on top of which, in marble, were the effigies of a husband and wife lying on their left sides facing the spectator, and resting on their left elbows; the husband’s head and shoulders showing beyond those of the wife. Another man used these figures for his own tomb (or his relatives did), getting a sculptor to convert the original wife into the new man, and the original husband into a pile of books—in the form of scrolls—behind him.

C. A. KNAPP, Captain.

“EVERYTHING COMES TO THE MAN WHO WAITS ” (clxxi. 137, 178, 197).—“Greece can afford to wait”: Disraeli, who never liked the Greeks, said this about the results of the Berlin Congress in 1878. The Congress strengthened Austria, saved Turkey, held out hopes for Christian minorities in Turkey, but did nothing for Greece, which had hoped for some “pickings” through Russian aggression on Turkey. Disraeli failed to see that Greece would be always friendly towards England.

C. A. KNAPP, Captain.

“THE DAYS BEYOND COMPARE ” (clxxi. 227, 267).—To the upper classes in France the times before the Revolution were long referred to regretfully as l’ancien régime.

C. A. KNAPP, Captain.

STELLA AND FLAVIA (clxxi. 279).—This little poem, under the heading “On the Duchess of Queensberry and her Sister,” is given on p. 84 of Mr. Iolo Williams’s “Shorter Poems of the Eighteenth Century,” where it is attributed with a query to the Rev. Jabez Earle, D.D. (1676-1768). We read in a footnote:

This poem has also been attributed, erroneously, to Mrs. Barber and to Mrs. Pilkington. Earle’s authorship is not quite certain, but it seems probable. I must admit, however, that none of Earle’s acknowledged verse is nearly so well written as this little poem. For the evidence as to this attribution see ‘The London Mercury’ for March 1922.

Jabez Earle fills nearly two columns in the ‘D.N.B.’

EDWARD BENSLY.

St. Albans.

“MR. WOOLSTON OF LONDON,” 1788 (clxxi. 278).—Surely it ought to be possible to compare Ethan Allen’s ‘The Oracles of Reason’ with the various pieces included in the seventeenth-century book bearing the same title. This last, issued in 1693, was re-published in 1695 in the volume of Charles Blount’s ‘Miscellaneous Works.’ The ‘Oracles of Reason’ was not “a book written in 1693.” It was a collection of many papers written at different times and not all by Blount himself. Some of them are dated earlier, 1679, 1680, 1686. Some are given as by Gildon, while other writers are Ra. Richardson, An. Rogers, H. W., and Rob. Yaxly.

Bournemouth.

C. A. KNAPP, Captain.