is. How did the title of Baron of Stepney come to be attached to John, second Baron Gower, in 1723?

A. T. M.

ROMAN STEELEYARDS.—Are there more than two of these in the British Museum? On 8 Feb., 1848, Mr. Neale exhibited one to the British Archaeological Association, and another was shown by the late Mr. Frederic Ouvry to the Society of Antiquaries on 27 Nov., 1870. The latter was then in the custody of the Rev. Arthur Bruce Fraser, of Havergate, near Newport Pagnell, Bucks. Are these now preserved in any public collection?

T. CANN HUGHES, M.A.

FIRST SHIP NAMED.—What is the earliest record in history of a ship bearing a name?

EVERARD HOME COLEMAN.

[Qy. the Ark or the Argo?]

SWINTON.—May I ask you to do me the favour of informing me if there are any ancient historical portraits of the Swinton who married Marjory or Margaret Stewart, daughter of King Robert Bruce, and also of Sir John Swinton who lived in the time of Cromwell?

E. A. WHITE.

ALLAN BLATNBY, M.A.—He was of Queen's College, Oxford, and author of ‘Festorum Metropolitum,’ London, 1654. What is known of him and his career? I have before me a copy of the ‘second edition refined,’ 1654; but Lowndes, in his ‘Bibliographer’s Manual,’ says there is but one copy known to be extant, and that in the British Museum. Allibone names the book, but furnishes no account of the author.

T. H. M. Philadelphia.

ST. PAUL’S PAROCHIAL SOCIETY.—Where can I find a list of officers? Any information will oblige.

A. C. H.

CHILDREN OF SIR HENRY PERCY.—According to Tate’s ‘History of Alnwick,’ i. 198, the children of Sir Henry Percy, stated in a foot-note to be descendants of Sir Ralph Percy, who was slain at Hedgeley Moor in 1464, are mentioned in the will of the fourth Earl of Northumberland. Also in Hodgson’s ‘History of Northumberland’ Sir Henry Widdrington is stated to have married, in 1492, Margery, daughter of Sir Henry Percy, eldest son of Sir Ralph Percy, who was son of Henry, second Earl of Northumberland. This Sir Ralph was the one killed at Hedgeley Moor. On the other hand, in Fonblanche’s ‘Annals of the House of Percy,’ the pedigree states that Sir Ralph who was slain at Hedgeley Moor died unmarried. The same statement appears in the ‘Dictionary of National Biography.’ These statements being entirely contradictory, I should be glad if any of your readers would kindly give me any evidence as to which is correct.

J. V. G. Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Stylist.

VIRGIL’S EPITAPH.

(8th S. xi. 188.)

Donatus, in his ‘Vita Vergilii’ (p. 43), gives the well-known lines in the orthodox manner, as Mr. Terry inevitably reproduces them. The rendering of duces by K. V. Coote as ‘shepherds’ instead of ‘heroes’ is obviously ridiculous, and needs no further comment, but the quotation from his article contains statements regarding the supposed urn and nine truly suspicious little pillars supporting it which invite more serious consideration. Not only do these statements occur in the article in question as matters of fact, but they have become the traditional ‘properties’ of the most prominent English guide-books, whence, doubtless, Mr. Coote might be proven to have directly derived his information. But I shall hope to show that even as there has developed a legendary literature around the name of Virgil, so we are here in the thick of a similar literature concerning his tomb and its appurtenances, if the familiar Columbarium at Pozzuoli be indeed that august monument. This uncertainty with regard to it, as has often been pointed out, must continue until we can determine with some scientific accuracy the position of the second milestone from ancient Naples (Paleopolis), on the road to Puteoli. ‘Ossa ejus Neapolim translatia sunt, tumultuque condita, qui est via Puteolana infra lapidem secundum.’

Now, as Mr. Coote records ‘the nine little pillars,’ I thought I would turn to Murray, and see if Albemarle Street could have given warrant for the statement. Surely enough it is there. I then turned to Mr. Hare’s ‘Southern Italy,’ and again I was not to be disappointed. The pillars—one for each muse, so very thoughtfully!—were all safe so far; but there occurred the further addition that a date was given. Mr. Hare states, somewhat venturously, that Villani, in his ‘Cronaca di Napoli,’ described the epitaph as existing in 1526. Further, there appeared the story of King Robert the Wise removing the urn and pillars from the tomb and depositing them for safety in Castel Nuovo in the year 1326. So far Mr. Hare. It was now time to go back a generation, and see what Chetwode Eustace had written in his ‘Classical Tour.’ This is what I found:

‘An Italian author, I think Pietro di Stefano, assures us that he himself had seen, about the year 1628, the urn supposed to contain the poet’s ashes, standing in the middle of the sepulchre supported by nine little pillars, with the inscription quoted above. He adds that Robert of Anjou, apprehensive lest such a precious relic should be carried off or destroyed during the wars then raging in the kingdom (which, by the way, they were not doing), took the urn and pillars from the tomb, and deposited them in the Castel Nuovo.’

Now, if Pietro di Stefano assured us that he