EARLY GRADUATION: WILLIAM WOTTEN (11 S. ii. 427; iii. 32, 75).—With reference to PROF. BENSLY’S remarks (ante, p. 32) upon Sir H. Craik’s harshness in dealing with William Wotton, it is but fair to point out that in the second edition of the ‘Life of Swift’ the criticism has been considerably softened (see vol. i. p. 84).

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“PUT A BEGGAR ON HORSEBACK AND HE WILL RIDE TO THE DEVIL” (11 S. iii. 269).—The earliest version of this saying that I know is: “Set a beggar on horsebacke, they, saie, and hee will neuer alight,” Robert Greene’s ‘Carde of Fancie,’ 1587, ed. Grosart (“Huth Library,” vol. iv. p. 102).

G. L. APPERSON.

This appears in Heywood’s ‘Dialogue,’ &c., 1576, in the form “Set a beggar on horseback and he will gallop.”

Hazlitt, ‘English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases,’ 2nd ed., 1882, refers to Greene’s ‘Orpharion,’ 1599: “Il n’est orgueil que de pauvre enrichi” (French); and “Il villano nobilitato non conosce parentado” (Ital.), from Ray’s ‘Collection of Proverbs,’ 1737.

King’s ‘Classical and Foreign Quotations,’ 1804, gives “Asperius nihil est humili, quum surgit in oltum” (“Nothing so odious as a clown that has risen to power”), from Claudianus (fl. 400) in Eutropium, i. 181.

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The earliest Shaksperean use of this adage is in ‘The True Tragedie of Richard, Duke of York,’ 1595, sc. iii. 160: “That beggars mounted, run their horse to death.” It appears in Ben Jonson’s ‘The Staple of News,’ 1625, at the end of Act IV., where Tattle says: “Ay, but set a beggar on horseback, he’ll never lin [=leave off] till he be a-gallop.”

It occurs in German: “Wenn ein Bettler aufs Pferd kommt, so kann ihm kein Teufel mehr voroilen”; in Dutch: “Help’t gij een’ bedelaar te paard, hij draait niet, maar hij galoppert”; and in Spanish: “Quando el villano está en el mulo, ni conoce a Dios, ni al mundo.” These are probably older than the English use of the proverb.

TOM JONES.

The same idea is found in Spanish: “Mete mendigo en tu pajar, y hazer se te ha heredero” (“Put a beggar into your barn, and he will make himself your heir”).

J. HOLDEN MACMICHAEL.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AS CHURCHWARDEN (11 S. iii. 145).—In ‘The Story of Charing Cross,’ p. 269, by Mr. Holden MacMichael, it is stated that George I. “was in fact a churchwarden” of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

R. J. FYNMORE.

HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES: MARK ON HIS NECK (11 S. iii. 87).—Descriptions of the personal appearance of Henry, Prince of Wales, are plentiful. As a rule, however, they do not enter so minutely into detail as to speak of marks or moles on the neck. There is a portrait of the Prince, in the act of throwing a lance, engraved by William Hole in Drayton’s ‘Polyolbion,’ which shows a mark on the right side of the face, not far from the chin, on the jawbone rather than the neck. This may possibly be intended for a mole or birth-mark. On the other hand, it may be only some blemish in the engraving. All that one may safely say is that, if Prince Henry had a mole on the neck, it was not so conspicuous as to attract special notice.

W. SCOTT.

TROUT OR TROWTE FAMILY (11 S. ii. 450).—The late Sir George Bartley’s third name was Trout, given him after his paternal grandmother Sarah Trout, a coheiress, daughter of Thomas Trout of Haddington, N.B. HENRIETTA COLE.

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SIR PATRICK TRANT, BT. (11 S. ii. 310).—In the Treasury Papers, vol. lxxvii., 31 December, 1701, p. 550, is a petition of Roger Pilcher pleading that he had during the late war secured at some hazard Sir Adam Blair, Dr. Gray, Capt. Bish, and old Brumfield the Quaker, and after that one Cooper and Maurice Trant, a notorious offender, when endeavouring to get off beyond sea. Roger Pilcher was a Folkestone man and a smuggler. There is also a record that “that notorious Irish rebel Morris Trant was taken in Devereux’s house.” Devereux was a Customs officer stationed at Sandgate Castle, and afterwards lived in Folkestone. Where can any particulars be found as to the above persons? R. J. FYNMORE.

SONGS OF THE PEASANTRY (11 S. iii. 47, 97).—I may supplement the answer already given by calling attention to a volume about to be issued by the New Spalding Club, entitled ‘Folk-Music of the North-East of Scotland.’ The prospectus states that it will contain over 2,000 airs,