small, is protected by a thick glass, and is framed in an ornamented, richly gilt, copper frame. It is, I think, painted in ivory, and is backed by a gilt copper plate, on which is engraved, in characters apparently of the period, “O! Cromwall, Anno 1684.” The accent over the d renders it probable that setting and inscription are foreign. The painting itself gives the features of Cromwell very exactly, and represents him in plain armour, with a plain falling collar round the neck, and long flowing hair.

G. J. R. G.

Sleek Stone, Meaning of (Vol. v., p. 140.).—I have just found a passage in Burton’s Anatomy of Melancholy which proves that R. C. H. was correct in the remarks he made on these words, viz. that they ought to have been printed sleek-stone, and that they were the name of an instrument used for smoothing or polishing, and not for sharpening:

“The ebon stone which goldsmiths use to sleeken their gold with, born about or given to drink, hath the same properties, or not much unlike.”—Anat. of Mel., Part ii. sec. iv. mem. 1. subs. 4. [Blake, one vol. 8vo. MDCCCXVI. P. 437.]

Lady Macbeth says:

“Come on;

Gentle my lord, sleek o’er your rugged looks;

Be bright and jovial ’mong your guests to-night.”

Macbeth, Act III. Sc. 2.

C. Forbes.

Slick or sleek stones are used by curriers to remove wrinkles and other irregularities in, and to smoothen the surface of hides and skins, after they have been converted into leather by the tanner. The stone which is considered to be the best for this purpose is quarried in the neighbourhood of Kendal.

The currier’s sleek stone is an oblong square plate, measuring six inches in length by four inches in breadth, and half an inch in thickness. One of the longer edges of the stone is fixed into a groove in a wooden handle or stock, and hence it is also commonly called a stock stone.

The leather being spread out upon a table, the stock is held in both hands, and the opposite edge of the stone is pressed upon and rubbed over the surface of the leather. In a subsequent part of the process of currying the workman uses, in like manner, a slicker or sleeker made of steel, and finishes his work with a glass sleeker.

J. L. C.

Tenor Bell of Margate (Vol. i., p. 92.; Vol. v., p. 319.).—The weight of this “ponderous tenor bell” is not mentioned; but there does not seem to be any particular “obscurity,” whatever there may be of strangeness in the alleged mode of its transit by water. By the terms “mill-cog” of the poetaster is doubtless to be understood the cog-wheel of the miller, viz. that which more or less directly connects the motive agent with the shaft carrying the stones. Persons who happen to have noticed the large size and ponderous construction of the main cog-wheel in many an ancient flour-mill, will easily imagine that if set afloat it would carry a great weight; especially if prepared, as a missionary to the Hudson’s Bay territories told me a small cart-wheel was rigged to transport him over the rivers, viz. by stretching a large skin over its area. It was, in all likelihood, to some contrivance of this kind that John de Dandelion and his dog have become so picturesquely and permanently connected with the history of Margate in “traditionary rhyme.”

D.

Rhymes connected with Places (Vol. v., pp. 293. 374.).—The following has been printed in the late John Dunkin’s History of Dartford; but as topographical works have but a limited circulation, and the above-named author was fond of printing but few impressions of his works, I have taken the liberty of forwarding the lines to you:

“All four of the parishes are situate upon the river Darent, and adjoin.”

Alfred Gatty.

Burial, Law respecting (Vol. v., p. 320.).—Though not a lawyer, I venture to express the opinion that, if preferred, burial may take place in unconsecrated ground. The law exacts the registering of the death, and inhibits a clergyman from officiating except within the consecrated boundary. Indeed the burying-ground of dissenters is not consecrated according to law, although it may have to be licensed. But, supposing a person to have the fancy to lie “in some loved spot, far away from other graves,” there seems to be no legal difficulty. In the shrubbery of Brush House, the residence of my friend and neighbour John Booth, Esq., M.D., there is a mausoleum over the remains of his uncle, from whom he inherited the property.

“Here,” says Hunter, in his History of Hollarshire, “Mr. Booth spent the latter part of an active life in mathematical and philosophical studies; and, indulging a natural (?) and patriarchal desire, prepared his own sepulchre amidst the shades his own hand had formed, in which his remains are now reposing.”

Was not Mrs. Van Butchell preserved many years after death in a glass case by her husband? Alfred Gatty.

* Sutton at Hone — fine pastures.
† Horton Kirby, the same.
‡ South Darenth, celebrated for its old church, and (probably when the lines were composed) for its baker.
§ Dartford: the bridewell of the district was formerly in this parish, in Lowfield Street.