Latin original occurs in the will of George Farneley, citizen and mercer of London and a native of “Weram” or “Wheram” (Weaverham) in Cheshire, who refers to his sister Petronill in 1505. (The Cheshire Sheaf, 3 S. xvii. 49-50).

H. I. A.

CHAPMAN AND EPIGRAMS ATTRIBUTED TO VIRGIL (clxii. 317, 372).—The verses entitled by Chapman “Virgil’s Epigram of Play,” 12 lines beginning “Despise base gain . . .” and ending “ne’er play for need,” are his translation of 12 hexameters ascribed to 12 different authors (Palladius, Asclepiadus, Eusthenius, Pompeius, Maximianus, Vitalis, Basilius, Asmenus, Vom anus, Euphorbus, Julianus, Hilasius) beginning “Sperne lucrum . . .” and ending “iraque cesset.” They are headed “XII Scholasticorum Poetarum Carmina de Ratione Tabulae. Versus sanis verbis et litteris.” Every word is of six letters except that aes est, in arca, si quis, pax est, ego sum, ut vere, are each reckoned as one word. Chapman does not reproduce this remarkable tour de force. The verses are to be found in H. Meyer’s Anthol. Vet. Lat. Epigrammatum et Poematum, Leipzig, 1835, vol. i, p. 173, Nos. 445-456: or Burman’s Anthol. vol. iii, No. 75.


K.

EARLIEST PARISH ORGS (clxii. 317, 357).—Probably Worcester Cathedral had one of the earliest organs, and one of my family (Daniel Boyce) was the last of several pre-Reformation organists there, 1522-40.

R. O’H. Boyce.

Although not parish organs, it is worth while noting a case in which organs were carried for royalty together with other ecclesiastical furniture from one castle chapel to another. These organs were probably of similar pattern to those first used in parish churches.

After King John of France had been taken prisoner at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356 he was for several years a captive in England, first at the Savoy, London, and afterwards at Hertford Castle, Herts, and Somerton Castle, Lincs. During the time he was in England his chaplain, Denys de Collors, kept a detailed account of the royal receipts and expenditure. When King John was brought from London to Hertford on April 4, 1559, eleven wagons, supplied by the Countess Warenne were necessary to transport his luggage, and for several days after further loads of furniture arrived. The chapel staff at once set to work to instal the various fittings in the chapel. On April 7 Clement, one of the chapel clerks, with the assistance of eleven men brought the organs from London. Various necessities included a clock stand in the oratory, a wafer iron, and fifty hooks for hanging vestments. Five albs were repaired and a portable altar brought from the Savoy. All was duly arranged for the Easter Festival on April 20.

H. C. Andrews, M.A., F.S.A.

FOLKLORE: DETECTION OF SEX (clxii. 280, 321, 376).—The test of throwing a handful of nuts into the lap to see whether the suspected person would open or close the knees was clearly borrowed by Charles Reade from an incident in the autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini. It should be an excellent test for most boys disguised as girls, but would it not fail with a boy who had been brought up in kilts? Presumably he would open his knees like a girl. Perhaps some reader who is acquainted with such a boy will make the experiment and record the result in ‘N. and Q.’

A possible modern test, which may perhaps find its way into future folk-tales (if there are any), would be to give the subject a double-breasted blazer, and see whether he (or she) buttoned it left-over-right or right-over-left.

G. H. White.

MINIATURE MAHOGANY BUREAUS (clxii. 354, 392).—These interesting miniatures were mostly travellers’ specimens for display to customers: they are often worth careful examination.

W. H. Quarrell.

CHEVY CHACE (clxii. 331).—Professor Skeat, in a note on the ballad, ‘Specimens of English Literature 1394-1579,’ Clar. Press, 1890: “I am bound to say that I entirely reject the piece of guess-work which suggests that Chevy Chace is a corruption of old French chevauchée, a raid . . . See l. 31 of the poem itself.”