of the sky. This I have long known. I have learned to-day from an unlikely source, namely, the late Mr. Mortimer Collins's Inory Gate, vol. i. p. 258, that in Italy it bears the name of "Santa Strada di Loretta." It is, no doubt, very ignorant of use not to have known this long ago, and is little less than imbecile to admit that I have added to my knowledge by reading a novel. To escape having this humiliating confession to make I would ask some kind reader of "N. & Q." to inform me what authority that charming novelist had for this, to me, most interesting bit of information.

**PEERS SIGNING THEIR CHRISTIAN NAMES.**

Former numbers of "N. & Q." have contained notices of this practice. It may be well to add to them in the recently published part of the *Archaeologia* (xlvii. ii. p. 264) a plate of the autographs of several of the Lords Cobham, all of which give the Christian name or its first letter.

K. P. D. E.

"DIVAGATIONS."—It is perhaps worth noting that in *Harper's Magazine* for October there is a review of Miss Thackeray's last book, *Miss William's Divagations*, wherein the editor takes occasion to remark that the author does not explain what divagations are, and that the "hottest modern dictionary" does not help him to discover. That the word is not in modern dictionaries perhaps arises from the fact that nearly all modern dictionaries have taken Johnson's Dictionary for a foundation, or at least have formed themselves on later works which were based on Johnson.

"Divagations is going astray," is given in Bailey. The derivation is obvious. 

FRANCIS COLLINS.

Rosebank, Lileworth.

[The word is to be found, at least, in the dictionaries of Webster, Artzall, and Hyde Clarke.]

DR. SCHLEMMANN'S DISCOVERIES.—I do not remember to have seen anywhere quoted, in reference to Dr. Schlemmann's discoveries, this line (1062) of the *Eneida* of Euripides:—

χρυσάνθην παλαιάν Πρασινον καταρχής.

R. N. GANDY.

Canterbury.

**Queried.**

We must request correspondents desiring information on family matters of only private interest, to affix their names and addresses to their queries, in order that the answers may be addressed to them direct.

**THEATRE LIGHTED WITH GAS.**—Lord Byron, in a letter to T. Moore, dated June 12, 1815, writes: "C. Brashaw wants to light the Theatre with gas, which may perhaps (if the vulgar be believed) poison half the audience and all the *dramatis persona.*" The theatre referred to was Drury Lane. Was this the first London theatre lighted with gas? (The last to adopted was the Haymarket, on April 15, 1853 (see "N. & Q." 2nd S. v. 459).)

H. FISHWICK.

[See "Theatre Illumination," ante, p. 326.]

"GOING-OFF CLUBS."—It is possible that the following paragraph, which recently appeared in a Yorkshire paper, being therein quoted as taken from *Textile Manufacturer,* may prove to be not altogether devoid of interest to some of your readers. The writer, after remarking upon the gregarious habits of the Lancashire operatives, who during Whitt week make excursions to the seaside in tens of thousands, and who are in the habit of frequenting fairs and wakes in almost equal numbers, proceeds as follows:—

"From a writer in a local paper, referring to this matter on the occasion of the recent Oldham wakes, we give the following information:—It is some ten years since 'going-off clubs' were started in Oldham—the chabbling together of a number of people in the factory or workshop for the purpose of putting their savings together, and investing them at interest, and so supplying the means for a holiday excursion of a longer or shorter duration, just as the amount falling due to the number may allow. These clubs are usually identified with the wakes. It is then that the balancing up takes place, and withdrawals are made. The first of these enterprises began in 1831.2. The accumulations have ever year increased from that time, and this year it is computed that there has been in the hands of private people, and in the lost accounts of limited companies, no less than 20,000/.

Is this arrangement unique; or does it prevail elsewhere? F. G. BIRKBECK Text. Cardiff.


"ANY WHERE."—In a letter from a Dorking servant occurs this passage:—"I can come the first week in November, or any week from Nov. 1." Is this rather pretty expression merely a blunder, or, as I hope, is it a spell of local dialect? The letter is addressed to me, and dated Oct. 20, 1881.

ALICE B. GOHERE.

**NAME OF BRASEROS COLLEGE.**—This name is supposed to have been derived from a brass-nium, brassens-huis, or brewhouse, attached to the hall built by Alfred" (Parker, *Handbook of Oxford,* p. 79, cited by Max Müller, *Lect., Science of Language,* ii. 260). It would be interesting to know in what language brassens-huis means brew-