Visits of the Living to the Dead (see 6th S. vii. 161).—The interesting accounts given in previous numbers of "N. & Q." under this heading remind me of a statement, in reference to the unburied body of a Duke of Croy, which I found in a well-written book, bought by me years ago at Stockholm. I have ventured to translate the narrative, which will be found in the chapter on "Réval," at p. 508 of La Baltique, by L. Léouzon le Duc (Paris, Hachette, 1855).

"The greatest curiosity of the Church of St. Nicolas is a mummy-corps. The sacristan who acts as cicerone to strangers shows it last of all, as the bouquet of the visit. You enter a chapel and see on a platform a sarcophagus, or rather an open box of wood painted in imitation of white and black marble. 'Approach!' says to the unburied body of a Duke of Croy, which had lived so gorgeously and possessed such fine domains. The colour of the skin of the body is a yellowish brown. This singular corpse is that of Charles Eugene, Duke of Croy, Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, Marquis of Monte Cornetto and of Rentis, &c. How did he get to Réval and to this place? The story is curious.

"The Duke of Croy was the descendant of an ancient and illustrious family of Belgium, whose ancestors were derived from the kings of Hungary. His father was Philip, Duke of Croy, his mother, Isabella, Countess of Bronkhorst. He was born in 1651. At twenty-five years of age he entered the service of Christian V., King of Denmark, who nominated him lieutenant-general and commandant of the fortress of Helsingborg. Denmark was then at war with Sweden. At the conclusion of peace the Duke of Croy took leave of King Christian and offered his services to the Emperor Leopold I., who gave him the látov of field-marshal and put him at the head of his armies. Croy carried on the war with the Turks and won numerous victories. Falling into disgrace, on account of having prematurely raised the siege of Belgrade, he went to Poland, thence to Saxony, and at last to Russia, where he was employed by Peter the Great against Charles XII. Here was to terminate the adventurous career of this cosmopolitan warrior. He was wounded at Narwa and made a prisoner. The Swedes sent him into the interior, to Réval, where he died on the 20th of January, 1702.

"The Duke of Croy had loved magnificence and expenditure. He contracted enormous debts which he had been unable to pay. The burgomasters of Réval, in conformity with existing laws, and no doubt with a view also of provoking the intervention of the family of the defunct in favour of the creditors, decided on depriving him of the rites of sepulture until such time as his debts should be acquitted. They placed him, covered with the robe of his rank, in the corner of the mortuary chapel in the Church of St. Nicolas. Years passed. Neither his family nor any one in the world appeared disquieted on account of this man, who during his life had lived so gorgeously and possessed such fine domains. He remained there, worse off than the poorest, not having a corner of earth to cover his remains. This continued up to 1819, the period when the Marquis Panucci was appointed Governor of the Baltic provinces and came to Réval. Feeling compassion for the illustrious corpse, he caused the wooden box to be made at his own expense in which the Duke of Croy now reposéd."

I will add the query, Is the corpse of the Duke of Croy still exhibited in the Church of St. Nicolas at Réval?

P. S. H.
34, Abingdon Villas, Kensington.

There is a very interesting account of the opening of the tomb of Edward I., in a letter from Mr. Gough to Tyson, in vol. viii. p. 612 of Nichols's Literary Anecdotes. It is probably well known to most readers of "N. & Q.;" but I copy it, in case it should not have been already noticed in these pages:

"The opening of the tomb of Edward I., and the actual view of the dead conqueror of Scotland, enshrined in robes of royalty, his crown on his head and two sceptres in his hands, his visage so well preserved as to exhibit a likeness to an able draughtsman, a mantle of red paned with white, and at every square a jewel of chased work, bespren with pearls and red and blue stones; a superb fibula fastening the mantle on the right shoulder, studded with pearls and twenty-two joints, headed and screwed in by a brilliant sapphire; his hands bare and entire (bone with tanned skin, but no nails), holding, the right, a sceptre surmounted by a cross fleure; the left, another, longer, surmounted by three clusters of oak leaves diminishing, and terminating by a dove. These sceptres were of gilt metal, as also the crown of fleur-de-lis. The feet were enveloped; but the toes, planta, and talus might be felt, distinct and fleshy, and the whole body of 6 ft. 2 in. long. Over the mantle was a wrapper or two, one strongly cerated."

Hampden's grave, in Great Hampden Church, was opened by his biographer, Lord Nugent, and the body was found in such a perfect state that the picture on the staircase of the house was known to be his from the likeness" (Timbs's Abbeys, Castles, and Ancient Halls of England and Wales).

In 1796 the bodies of Lady Kilsyth (widow of Viscount Dundee, the celebrated Claverhouse, and wife of the last Viscount Kilsyth) and her infant son were exhumed, and found in the most extraordinary state of preservation. They met their death in 1717 in Flanders by the falling in of the roof of a house in which they and a number of other Scottish exiles were assembled. Their bodies were embalmed, and sent over to Scotland, where they were buried with great pomp at Kilsyth, in the family vault. The minister of Kilsyth thus describes their appearance in 1796:

"The body of Lady Kilsyth was quite entire; every feature and every limb was as full as the day she was laid in the tomb. The features, nay, the very expression of her countenance, were marked and distinct. The body of her son lay at her knee. His features were as composed as if he were asleep; his colour was as fresh, and his flesh as plump and full as in the perfect glow of health. Perhaps the most singular phenomenon was that the bodies seemed not to have undergone the