of any other information than that contained in the Chronicle of Man, Torfæus, Snorro, in Johnson’s Scandinavian Antiquities, Giraldis’ Cambrensis, and Dr. Hanmer. If he had any ancient Danish maps of this neighbourhood, doubtless they would be of vast importance on this subject. I should say that a very hurried and imperfect report of the lecture appeared in the columns of our local paper, extending through four successive numbers. I should feel much gratification in forwarding you or M. Worsaae such portions thereof as I can now lay my hands on, particularly that relating to King Magnus, should any desire to that effect be expressed.

John W. Hanna.

Saul Street, Downpatrick, Ireland.

Curfew.

(Vol. iv., p. 240.)

In Noake’s Worcester in Olden Times, London, 1849, p. 121, under the head of “Bells,” I find the following passage:

“The popular notion of the curfew having originated in the odious tyranny of the Conqueror has been negatived by modern research. Du Cange says that the ringing of the couvre-feu prevailed generally in Europe during the middle ages as a precaution against fire. Voltaire also takes the same view of the custom. Henry I. abolished his father’s enactment, but the custom has survived to the present day, probably as one of general convenience. So late as about 150 years ago a fire-bell was rung every evening at Vienna, as a signal to the inhabitants to extinguish their fires, and to hang up lanterns in front of their houses. A few specimens of the couvre-feu are still in existence, some of them bearing marks of having covered the fire.”

Upon this passage I would ask permission to put two Queries:
1. What historical notices are there of a curfew prior to the Conquest?
2. At what places on the continent of Europe, besides Vienna, has the custom been ascertained to prevail? Your correspondent H. H. B. (Vol. iv., p. 240.) produces an instance of the curfew-bell being rung at Charlestown, South Carolina, where, however, it is manifestly a custom introduced from the “mother-country.” J. Sansom.

Oxford.

Minor Queries.

Fishing by Electricity. — It is a well-known fact that the discharge of gunpowder under water is more powerful in its effects than when it is exploded in the atmosphere, and that a small discharge will kill all the fish in the vicinity. I have a curiosity to ascertain whether it is possible to make practical use of this fact in deep sea fishing. By means of the gutta percha wire and the electric fluid, it is extremely easy to convey and discharge gunpowder at any depth, and I cannot help thinking that in some kinds of fishing a moderate quantity of powder exploded in the vicinity of the bait, which might be at a small distance from it, would “astonish the natives” of the deep, and bring them to the surface much more rapidly than could be accomplished by any method now in use.

Ilewillah.

As salt as Fire. — Whence this saying? R. H.

“There were three ladies,” &c. — My paternal grandmother, who was a native of county Kerry in Ireland, was in the habit of singing a song set to a sweet and plaintive air, which thus commenced:

“There were three ladies playing at ball,
Farin-dan-dan and farin-dan-dee;
There came a white knight, and he wooed them all,
With adieu, sweet honey, wherever you be.

He courted the eldest with golden rings,
Farin, &c. &c.
And the others with many fine things,
And adieu,” &c. &c.

The rest has been forgotten. Can any of your readers furnish the remaining words? Uneda.

Philadelphia.

Prophecies fulfilled. — A very interesting collection might be made of apparently well authenticated prophecies fulfilled, concerning modern kingdoms and families of rank. That quoted by your correspondent in Vol. iii., p. 194., wants dates and details. Some curious instances might be gathered from a true believer — Sir W. Scott in his Works, and in Lockhart’s Life of him. Has any collection of this kind ever been published?

J. P.

The Chase Family. — Having observed in “ N. & Q.” various requests concerning families, I would like to ask some information respecting the “Chase” family, three brothers of which emigrated to America about the year 1630, and settled in the vicinity of Newbury port, in Massachusetts; their names were Aquila, Thomas, and William. Tradition says they came from Cornwall, and also that the name was originally spelled “ La Chasse,” and that they were of Norman extraction, having settled in England about the time of the Conquest. As their descendants in the United States now number about 30,000 individuals, if those who remained in England have been equally prolific, there must be many of the same name who perhaps can give their trans-Atlantic cousins some knowledge of their ancestry. Quascacunquen.

Philadelphia, June 14.

Mummies of Ecclesiastics in Germany. — I remember having some conversation with a friend a few years ago respecting some bodies which he had seen preserved in the church of some town,