Trent; six heralds, Windsor, Chester, Lancaster, Richmond, Somerset, and York; and four pursuivants," &c.

Edward H. Marshall, M.A.

This office was created by Henry VII. in the ninth year of his reign. The title was given in honour of the house of Somerset, from which he was descended, and through which he claimed the crown.

F. R. O.

SAXTON'S MAP OF YORKSHIRE: AUGUSTINE RYTHER (6th S. xii. 361).—Let us hope that the able and interesting article on Saxton and Ryther in "N. & Q." will lead to a more minute examination into the dates and characters of the latter's map of London. I remember seeing the one ascribed to the year 1604 in the Crace Collection, when on view at the South Kensington Museum; but no date of any kind could be seen, and I believe it to belong to a much later period. If I remember rightly, Mr. William Rendle, who was with me at the time, concurred in this opinion-one which may be said to be confirmed by the plan only showing one theatre in Southwark, and that an octagonal one. The Crace maps are now in the British Museum.

J. O. HALLIWELL-PHILLIPPS.

Varieties of Knighthood (6th S. xii. 328).—As one who has taken trouble to obtain an amendment of the absurd condition of the law as regards baronets, permit me to ask where Mr. John J. Stocken obtained the information that James I. sold baronetcies in 1614 to any persons who would pay him 1,095l. for the title? The fees of the Garter are now over 1,000l.; but I doubt that the Chapter would elect a knight for even twice that tum. I have always believed that the first baronets were men of ancient race and very good social position. William Fraser, of Ledeclune, Bt.

["James offered the title of baronet to all persons of good repute, being knights or esquires possessed of lands worth 1,000l. a year, provided that they were ready to pay the Exchequer 1,080l. in three annual payments, being the sum required to keep thirty foot soldiers for three years."—Gardiner, History of England, vol. ii. p. 112. This quotation refers to baronets, and not to knights, but is advanced as bearing upon the subject.]

Astronomical Paradox (6th S. xii. 347).—I suspect that the paragraph quoted by C. M. I. was not written by a Fellow of King's, and I am tolerably sure that the officials of the Nautical Almanac office would not sanction the statement. The writer was probably thinking of refraction. When a ray of light approaches the earth it makes a slight curve, owing to the atmosphere which surrounds our sphere. The effect of this inflection is to make the object from which the ray proceeds appear slightly higher than its real position. In calculating, therefore, the height of heavenly bodies an allowance is always made for refraction. So far as the statement goes that

towns and islands cannot have the position now assigned to them, I can state from personal experience that the assertion is an error. Not only can we fix the position of towns and islands, but also we can ascertain within a few yards the position of a single house.

F. G.

The "gentlemen who are responsible for the contents of the Nautical Almanac" have evidently been indulging in a little chaff, which seems to me to be quite justifiable under the circumstances. Most certainly if the angle of incidence of a ray of light be not equal to the angle of reflection, every measure made with the reflecting sextant is utterly wrong. We may add that if the three angles of a plane triangle be not equal to two right angles, every proposition in Euclid is utterly wrong. It is well known, however, that Horne Tooke's etymology of if from the imperative of give has been long since exploded; it is really derived from a Gothic word meaning "doubt"; and we may venture, I think, to be very sceptical about either of the above propositions. W. T. Lenn.

Blackheath.

PALEY (6th S. xii. 369).—I have heard this story told of Charles Austin or one of his Cambridge friends. Being congratulated by his friends as the successful author of an essay on "Christian Evidences," he remarked, with a droll twinkle in his eye, "Yes; but I could have written a much better one on the other side."

This reminds me of a similar story attributed to Austin, I think. Being asked in an examination to state and refute Hume's celebrated argument on miracles, he proceeded to state it with the utmost clearness; and calmly added, "There is no answer to this argument."

W. J. Greenstreet, B.A.

POLITICAL BALLAD (6th S. xii. 368).—"N. & Q." supplies the lines which J. PITT asks for in 5th S. vi. 166.

Ed. Marshall.

[These lines, which appeared under the heading "The Duchess of Devonshire," were supplied from an antimacassar by D. G. C. E., who is kind enough to send them again.]

Dr. Johnson's Watch (6th S. xi. 348; xii. 345).—I can inform O. M. that Dr. Johnson's watch, with the Greek inscription on the dial, is in my possession. Boswell says Johnson gave it to Steevens, Steevens gave it to his cousin, my mother, who gave it to me. James Pycroft.

Callimanco (6th S. xii. 340, 357).—Wood and plaster houses have been called by this name.

HAROLD MALET.

Dublin.

S.S.F.C. (6th S. xii. 348).—Surely these letters can mean nothing else but "Socii fieri curavere"! E. Walford, M.A.

petite médaille de bronze, mais la plupart étaient tellement oxydées qu'elles se sont brisées au premier frottement.....les bronzes étaient de Trajan et d'Antonin," —Cochet. Normandie Souterraine, Paris, 1855.

This mode of disposing the coins seems to me exceptional; I have therefore "made a note of it."

J. MASKELL.

Emanuel Hospital, S.W.

Queries.

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.

STABROBATES OR STAUROBATES. — In the second appearance of Oheron after the first act of Greene's play of James IV. the first dumb show represents a battle between Semiramis and Stabrobates, elsewhere called Staurobates, in which the former flies, loses her crown, and is hurt. What is the authority for this Stabrobates, &c., and what is the true spelling of his name? Or is it a coinage by Greene indicating that he was the cross or affliction prepared for the mighty empress? I cannot find wither form of the name, nor does the account of Semiramis (Smith's Dict., &c.) state that she fell in this manner, but that she bequeathed her empire to Ninyas and disappeared from the earth.

I use the word "fell" advisedly, for the whole intended moral of the show is lost unless she then lost her crown and fell. See, for instance, the following dumb shows to the same purport—" What is the pomp of this world?"

Might I add one item as to the representation this part of the play, and very probably of Midsummer Night's Dream? a matter hitherto, I believe, unnoticed. Bohun speaks of every "weane" in this show as "all betaint with bloud." mid show was produced by Oberon. In all probability, therefore, the actors were supposed to be fairies; and certainly, as appears from "weane," these actors were represented by children. like manner Bohun calls Oberon "little king," and on his first appearance says, "Thou lookest so big as the King of Clubs," with other referes to the kings of spades, diamonds, and hearts. Nor is it difficult to understand that Oberon could be played by a child when the little eyasses Played whole comedies and tragedies, and in fame and profit outdid Shakespeare's company.

ASTRONOMICAL PARADOX.—The following is extracted from a letter published in a newspaper called the *People*, signed "Percival J. Brine," and therefore presumably written by the gentleman of name who is a senior fellow of King's College, mbridge. He asserts that "the officials of the Nautical Almanac office" have sanctioned the following statement—which he professes (apparently)

Br. Nicholson.

to give in their own words—viz., that in consequence of his discovery of the inequality of the angles of incidence and reflection,

the places on the earth and sea, such as towns and islands, cannot have the positions that are now assigned to them; and as regards nautical astronomy the angular distance of any two objects, such as the angle of distance of the moon from the sun, will not be that given by the sextant, because the instrument is made on the assumption that the incident and reflecting angles are equal, If there is a great difference in the two angles, the whole of the positions of the stars will be different from their supposed present ones; in fact, the whole system will be upset, because no observation can be correct, on account of the local position of the observer not being able to be Without assuming that these two given satisfactorily. angles of incidence and reflection are equal, it is impossible to determine accurately the position of the observer."

One is landed in a difficulty, from which I ask for extrication. One may presume that a senior fellow of King's knows what he is writing about, and certainly would not publish what he knows to be untrue. On the other hand, it is incredible, to me at least, that the gentlemen who are responsible for the contents of the Nautical Almanac should ever have sanctioned such a statement as that given above. What is the way out? Will some learned correspondent of "N. & Q." come to my aid?

Heacham Hall, Norfolk.

LEGENDS OF LAKES.—May I inquire if any of the English or Scotch lakes, either freshwater or marine, have legends attached to them accounting for their origin? Many of the Irish loughs are stated in the ancient annals of the nation to have burst forth in certain years, and to some are attached legends which give circumstantial accounts of the occurrence. Usually an enchanted well, which has been carefully guarded, and the door of which has been closely attended to, takes advantage of a moment of neglect and bursts forth, filling up a fertile valley or plain and drowning all the inhabitants. A woman is usually the cause of the disaster. There are also in Ireland legends as to supernatural monsters—a hound, a serpent, or something else-living under the waters of certain lakes. Are such legends as these connected with W. H. P. any English or Scotch loughs?

BUNGTOWN COPPERS.—This name was given in New England, in the early decades of the century, to copper coins which were thought of an inferior type. Has Bungtown any geographical reality? If so, where is it? And how old is the phrase "Bungtown copper"?

JAMES D. BUTLER.

Madison, Wis., U.S.

DR. MEAD.—Where did Dr. Mead live near Windsor? He used to drive down to his country house with a coach and six. Also he used daily