quantity of the penultimate syllable alone? How long is it since Tityre was superseded by Teytire? and edite reegibus by edite reegibus? Where did the new system originate? and who were the chief agents in establishing it? You have, no doubt, among your correspondents, many who could give ample particulars of this change; but if these be not soon put on record, they may be irrecoverably lost. I believe it has not yet been attempted, at least with any success, to extend the above change to the last syllable. I have not yet heard meeceenace atavice, though consistency might seem to require such a pronunciation; and to my ear, it would not be more offensive than what I do hear.

E. H. D. D.

"Ruckisle." — Can any of your readers, who have made the peculiar county dialects of England their study, help me to the derivation of this word? I heard it first in Cornwall, and it may probably never have been used beyond the western borders.

T. H. P.

"Saxon and the Gaeil." — Who is the author of The Saxim and the Gaeil, printed by J. and A. Aikman, Edinburgh, 1814, in four volumes?

E. J. LITTLER.

De Sancto Albino, St. Aubin, Tobin; Dobbigne, Dobbyn. — Are the names here set down aliases of each other? or are we to take Dobbigne and St. Aubin to be distinct? That St. Aubin and Tobin are substantially the same name there is undeniable proof, but it does not appear so clearly that Dobbigne, Dobbyn, and Tobin are identical. Perhaps it might help towards a solution of the question if it were decided whether Dobbigne is derived from the name of a place or from the saint Alban. A note in elucidation will oblige.

JAMES GRAVES.

Kilkenny.

Two Cathedrals in Dublin. — Mr. D’Alton tells us in his Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin, p. 4., that “there are in the diocese of Dublin two cathedrals (Christchurch and St. Patrick’s), a peculiarity in which Saragossa alone partakes.” Is this statement exactly correct?

ABBA.

Plowden’s Claim to the Barony of Dudley.—Can any correspondent give me any particulars of this, and how the Plowden family founded their claim?

C. J. DOUGLAS.

Rochester Registers. — In a work by Mr. W. Osburn, an extract is given from Strype’s Annals (vol. i. ch. liii. ff. 521, 522.), where Strype states that the account “is taken out of the Register of the See of Rochester,” which he gives respecting one Thomas Heath (a brother of Nicholas Heath, Archbishop of York), who was a concealed and dispersed Jesuit; and who was detected at Rochester in the disguise of a Puritan preacher, with a Bull from Pope Pius IV, in his possession, about the year 1568.

Could any of your readers, who have access to the Rochester Registers, ascertain whether this record is still there? and if so, could they supply a copy of it?

As Dr. Edmund Gheast was Bishop of Rochester in 1568, I presume it would be in his register.

C. H. DAVIES, M.A. (Clergyman).

The “Lay Readers” of the Reformation. — From a memorandum made at Oxford, where I had an opportunity of consulting Strype’s Annals of the Reformation (vol. i. part i. ch. xi. ff. 224—228), I infer that there were, in or about the year 1559, certain “lay readers,” licensed by the bishop, to perform divine service, after making a subscription to a certain declaration. Archdeacon Hale, in his charge of 1553, at p. 19., also refers to Strype’s Annals (vol. i. pp. 262, 215., of the Oxford edition of 1824), with reference to these readers as existing in 1559, and as recognised in the Convocation of 1562 to read divine service and homilies in places where there was no minister.

I should be glad of full information respecting the date and continuance, and precise duties, of these “lay readers,” with the form of subscription made by them, and of license granted by the bishop. I would also ask whether the system of lay readers prevails to any great extent in the American Episcopal Church, where it is in use, and whether their ministrations are confined to rooms, or extend to churches also?

It must not be overlooked, that these lay readers are quite distinct from the “Scripture readers” of modern times, who merely read the Scriptures from house to house.

A COUNTRY CLERGYMAN.

Systems of Short-hand. — Where can I find an account of a trial of different systems of shorthand, which I am told was held some forty years ago? and, also, which is the most generally adopted and most practical system of short-hand at the present day. Each of the Encyclopedias (Rees, Metropolitana, Britannica, and Penny) commands a different system, and most of them refer to Lewis’s History of Short-hand, but none of them mentions Lewis’s own system; and I should be glad to know whether it is considered a good one.

FRANK FOSTERSCUS.

Stephano’s Bottle. —

“This bottle, which I made of the bark of a tree with my own hands since I was cast ashore.” — Shakespeare, Tempest, Act II. Sc. 2.

Can any of your readers inform me what was the particular kind of bottle to which the above passage alludes? The only kind of bottle practicable to Stephano, so far as I can fancy, would
be made by stripping off a small sheet of birch bark, pinching up its corners, and pegging them together so as to make a deep dish. I should be much obliged for any information referring to the bark vessels formerly in use in England.

F. G.

Variation of Currency. — The currency is —

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And in the British West India Islands it is believed there are several different currencies to the dollar. In the New England States, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and South Carolina, there is no coin to represent the shilling. In Canada there was not, until lately, any such coin. In New York State the shilling is a “real,” one-eighth of a dollar.

The above being now, or having been formerly, all English colonies, how did these different currencies originate?  

S. W. Rix.

Becles.

Mrs. Fitzherbert. — Information is requested respecting any pamphlets that appeared on the subject of the marriage of the Prince of Wales with Mrs. Fitzherbert.  

G. H.

The Cobb of Lyme. — When was the Cobb of Lyme, in Dorsetshire, built, by whom, and why so named?  

A Fisherman.

Gunston Manuscript. — A manuscript which I have, of 12mo. size, in a good hand of the seventeenth century, bears the following title:

“A Short Meditation or Consideration of the Future Joyful, Blessed, and Eternall Life: collected out of the Holy Scripture, for especiall Cheering and Comfort of Heart to all Sorrowfull, Godly Christians in these last dangerous and troublous Times. By Jeremia Apello, in the German Language. Now Englished by J. Gunston.”

There follows an epistle dedicatory — “To my dearly beloved sister, Mrs. Mary Gunston,” dated “Hambourg, 31. Xber, 1681.” The Preface occupies eight pages, and the “Meditation” itself forty-seven. The author observes that, in this life men have need of food, raiment, dwellings, company, and exercise; and proceeds to show, “out of the Holy Scriptures,” to which the marginal references are very numerous, that “all these shall the saints have in the life to come.” At the end is written, by the hand of the translator or transcriber, “Hannah Gunston, 28 December, 1691;” and on the back of the last page:

“A book may find him who a sermon flies, And turn delight into a sacrifice.”

Has this MS. been printed?*. Was not “J. Gunston” the father of Thomas Gunston, who built Sir Thomas Abney’s residence at Stoke N ewington; and of Mary Gunston, who became Lady Abney?

S. W. Rix.

Becles.

History of Newspapers. — I have not seen “N. & Q.,” regularly for some time, but a friend informs me that a notice has appeared in a recent Number of the intention of the writer to compile a History of Newspapers. As I have been engaged in collecting materials for such a work for some years, — deferred it till I ascertained how Mr. Knight Hunt would handle the subject, — and have now resumed it, and have it nearly completed, I should be glad to know if your correspondent is still proceeding with his task.

A. A.

The Derwentwater Family. — Can M. R. be informed who is the heir of the Derwentwater family, as James the third earl, and Charles his brother, died without male issue?

Sir Charles Sedley. — Is there any picture or engraved portrait of him? If there is, I should be obliged by a description such as might enable me to decide whether a small picture in my possession is a likeness of him.

N. B.

Minor Queries with Answers.

“Myrrour of the Worlde.” — I have before me a very old dwarf quarto volume in black letter, of which the title-page has been lost, and in which I can discover no date. The “Prologus” commences thus:

“In the name of owre saumour Crist Jehu, maker and redemour of al makyn, S. Laurens adrewe, of y° townes of Calia, base translated for Johnes dodborowe, book prenter in the cite of Andwarpe, this present volume, deuyed in thre partes, which was never before in no manuall langage prentyd tym now.”

The first part is called the “Myrrour of the Worlde,” and treats of the creation of the earth, astronomy, physics, the nature of heaven and hell, and the like. The second part treats “To the lawde and prayse of Almighty God, of ye° bestis and wormes on erthe, with their properties and vertues.” The third part treats of “Serpeyts on ye° erthe, fowles in ye° ayre, and fisshes and monsters in the water.” The whole volume is profusely illustrated with a number of most

[* This translation does not appear to have been published. A copy of the original work is in the Bodleian, entitled “Anteill: Meditatio vitae eterna, Germanica, 8vo., Bremia, 1639.”]