

The Shoe Prison was certainly an inferior punishment to the Boot, the Stocks, and the Chinese Kok-wai.

CUTHBERT BEDD.

Queries.

TOUCHING FOR THE KING'S EVIL.

DEEDS OF PRIVILEGE: SITTING COVERED IN THE ROYAL PRESENCE.

Everybody knows that once upon a time, when kings were little better than swine, one John de Courcy, Earl of Ulster, satiated with wealth and honours already possessed, had nothing to desire but the privilege of remaining covered in the sovereign's presence, when called upon to name a reward for services he had rendered. John Lackland must have been just as surprised, though infinitely more pleased than was King Herod of old, when the Terpsichorean talents displayed by his niece and step-daughter induced him to offer an unqualified choice of reward: in the first case a head was the unreasonable and hard-to-comply-with demand, while in the second, but the covering of a head was asked, and was as cheerfully as speedily granted.

Most people have also heard stories about the Earl of Ulster's descendants claiming this hereditary privilege in later times. "Sire, my name's de Courcy," is the excuse attributed to one of the Lords Kingsale to his sovereign, when he had been nudged at the coronation by the "Black-Rod," or some one else, with the friendly hint, "hats off"; and the king, continues the story, at once admitted, not only his belief in the truth of Lord Kingsale's assertion as to his patronymic, but in his right to do in his presence what nobody else did, but begged to remind the noble lord that "there were ladies present."

Such is the first recorded instance of the privilege of remaining covered in the royal presence being granted to a subject. By Henry VIII. similar privilege was granted by deed to the following persons:—

1. John Forester, of Watling Street, co. Salop, ancestor of Lord Forester.
2. Bartholomew Hesketh, a cadet of the Heskeths of Rufford, co. Lancaster, now represented by Sir Thomas Hesketh, Bart.
3. Stephen Tucker, of Lamerton, co. Devon, a member of the old west country family of Tooker.
4. Richard Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, ancestor of Lord Wrottesley.

The four instances above were in respect of the king's evil from which these gentlemen suffered,

gate Prison, where such poor insolvent Debtors as can't pay for Lodgings, are (i. e. have been) crowded, or crush'd in together. It seems to have received its denomination from the Privilege they, in Turn, have of begging Charity of Passers by; they, by a cord, letting down an Old Shoe to receive the same."—P. 169.

and though of a different character and origin to the grant to de Courcy, are nevertheless to be considered honourable, as the society or presence of these persons must have been desirable to the king, and suggested an easy method of hiding a head-sore which was an eye-sore, else their dismissal from his court would appear to have been the course that unceremonious monarch would have taken. In the reign of Elizabeth, William Tucker, D.D., afterwards Dean of Lichfield, wrote, and dedicated to her his *Charisma*, which treated of the divine right and power of the sovereigns of England to cure the king's evil by the touch; but this right and power appear to have been absent in the person of Henry VIII., otherwise he would surely have exercised them in favour of his favourites, and so conferred a far greater benefit upon them, than by his deeds of privilege.

Queen Mary (Tudor) granted the like privilege to Radclyffe, Earl of Sussex; but whether in respect of an evil she could not cure, I know not.

I have copies of the deeds to Hesketh, Wrottesley, and Tucker. Copies of those to Forester and Radclyffe I am very anxious to obtain. I have long collected facts in connexion with the cure of the king's evil by the touch, and deeds of privilege to subjects for sitting covered in the royal presence, or for other objects; and, as I contemplate publishing them in—what I hope to make an interesting—volume on the above heads, I would gladly, if permitted, avail myself of the facility afforded by "N. & Q." to obtain the assistance of those of its readers who may be able and willing to help me. Are any other instances known than those I have quoted? S. T.

AMERICAN CENTS. — Wanted some information as to the early and most scarce American cents, some of which are spoken of as of considerable value. CHARLES CLAY, M.D.

STEPHEN ASTYN. — The following occurs in Hasted's *History of Kent*, iv. 139, fol. 1782:—

"In the 83rd year of King Hen. VIII. the leases of this manor (Loose in Kent) was Stephen Astyn."

I should feel obliged for any particulars of this Stephen Astyn. Or can anyone direct me to the sources of information where I might learn something about him and his connexions.

MAN OF KENT.

BIOGRAPHICAL QUERIES.—Where can I obtain any fuller account of the late Judge Heath, who died in Mansfield Street 17 January, 1816, than is to be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for February, 1816, p. 166? Where was he buried? Did he leave any descendants? And what coat of arms did he bear? Also, of Sir Simon Blane, one of the Judges of the Court of K. B., who died 15th April, same year? And of Anthony Davis,

Esq., who died in 1816, at Albury, Surrey, in his eighty-eighth year? There is a short account of Mr. Davis in Edwards' *Anecdotes of Painters*, p. 123.

F. G.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL.—Will some correspondent give me a reference to any work in which I can see copies of the monuments in Bristol Cathedral?

G. W. M.

CLERICAL KNIGHTS.—Turning over the other day Townsend's *Calendar of Knights*, London, 1828, I found the names of the Rev. Sir John Thoroton, knighted 4th Jan. 1814, died about 1820, and the Rev. Sir Robert Peat, D.D., who had the Royal Licence to accept the order of St. Stanislaus, 2 Oct. 1804. Can a clergyman have knighthood conferred upon him? If so, has it been done in any other cases? If not, I presume these persons were knighted before taking orders?

G. W. M.

CLOTH AND WOOLLEN TRADES.—Is there any history of the cloth and woollen trades in Kent and Sussex?

L. L.

WILLIAM DICCONSON, as appears from the Jacobite Trials at Manchester, in 1694, published by the Chetham Society, was tried on a charge of treason and *acquitted*. Was he afterwards tried and convicted? I ask because Baines, in his *History of Lancashire* (vol. iii. p. 472), says that in the survey of his estate by a Commission, 6 Anne, 1707, is the recital of his *conviction* and attainder for high treason in the reign of William III. Was such a Commission held in 1707? I find from a contemporary journal that a Commission was sitting at Wigan in July, 1706, on the estate of Mr. Dicconson of Wrightington. Baines refers to the Duchy Records; but I am told that the Keeper of the Records resides at Preston, and that in order to have access to them, his expenses from Preston to Lancaster would have to be paid, as well as a fee of 1*l.*, and a further gratuity of 1*s.* or 2*s. 6d.* for every document produced. Is this as it should be?

A. E. L.

JOHN EDERS AND JOHN WILKES.—Between 1770 and 1780, John Eders, a housebreaker, was executed at Warwick; and John Wilkes, a highwayman, either at Stafford or Shrewsbury. Their wicked lives and edifying deaths were published and commented upon at the time, but I have not been able to procure the books or any satisfactory account of them. Any information thereon will much oblige.

W. B. J.

ENGLISH EPITAPHS AT ROME.—The *Itinerario d'Italia* contains a variety of curious things. My copy, printed at Vicenza in 1638, says it is translated from the Latin of Andrea Scoto. Now Andreas Schottus is the well-known Jesuit of Antwerp; but I elsewhere find this work ascribed to his brother Francis. I may then ask which

really wrote the work? This by the way. Chap. V. Part 2, contains a list of Roman churches with their principal epitaphs. In that of "San Grisogno in Transtevere," is the tomb and epitaph of "*David Vuiliano, Oratore Inglese.*" Is this David Williams, and who was he? In the church of "San Gregorio a capo del Ponte Fabritio" are the epitaphs of "Edvardo Carno" and of "Roberto Vecamo," English legists and knights who, banished from their country because they defended the Catholic religion, went to finish their days in the peace of the Lord at Rome. Who was the second of these? In the church of the "Santa Trinità degli Inglese" is buried cardinal Alano, *i.e.* Allan or Allen. Do these monuments still exist? B. H. C.

FRANKLYN.—Can any reader give me the parentage of John and Richard Franklyn, Franklin, or Francklyn, of Jamaica, who died in the latter twenty years of last century? John is supposed to have been buried within St. Mungo's Church, Glasgow (when?) His wife's maiden name was Susan Blake, I think. Whose daughter was she? Of Nicholas Allen Blake, of Alexander, Benjamin, or of William, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, in the above island?

John Franklyn used an antique seal, on which there is a shield with a bend charged with three lions' heads erased. I do not remember what the charge of the field was, but rather think that it resembled a dolphin.

B. B. B.

GERMAN DRAMA.—Who are the authors of the two following burlesques on the German drama?

1. *More Kotzebue; or, My own Pizarro*, a monodrama, 1799. 2. *The Benevolent Cut-Throat*, a play in seven acts, translated from an original German drama, written by the celebrated Klotzboggenhaggen, by Fabius Pictor. It is said in the *Biog. Dramat.* to be published in a collection of poems called *The Meteors*, 2 vols. 1800; also in *The Spirit of the Public Journals*, vol. iv.

ZETA.

GILES GREEN, M.P., AND CAPTAIN PLUNKETT. The following is in the *Commons Journals*:—

"Die Luna, Junij 24, 1644.

"Upon information given to this House, that Captain Plunkett, Captain Thomas, and others in the service of the King and Parliament, with some of their Mariners, did plunder a house of Mr. Giles Green, a member of this House—killed divers of his Ewes and Lambs, and carried away others, to his great damage—it is ordered, that the said Captain Plunkett, Captain Thomas, and their Companions, shall make Mr. Green reparation. And Mr. Green hath leave of this House to accept the same accordingly."

My Query is: Where may be found further particulars of the conduct of the said Captain Plunkett & Co.? Mr. Green was M.P. for Corfe and Weymouth at different times, and his house was in the Isle of Purbeck. Query, too, *Where?*

H. T. ELLACOMBE.