cester, and after the Restoration was Clerk of the Acatry, in the household of Charles the Second.

Mr. Suckling, in his *History of Suffolk*, claims for a family some time seated at Stradbrook, in that county, a consanguinity with the descendants of Sir Stephen.

On an altar-tomb in Stradbrook churchyard are inscribed notices of many members of this family, but without dates. One is rather extraordinary, making the lives of a father and son together to amount to 194 years. Amongst them is this:—

"Here is hourly expected, Simon the next descendant, with his son Simon, who died young, tho' still preserved to be interr'd with his father at the earnest request of his pious mother the Lady Hart. And also Maior John Fox, with his issue, who during the late rebellion loyally behav'd himself, undergoing with great courage not only the danger of the field, but many severe imprisonments."

The arms on this tomb differ from those of Lords Ilchester and Holland, being simply three foxes' heads erased.

Should this note supply a clue for your correspondent "VULPES" to identify Major John Fox with the brother of Sir Stephen, on knowing that he has found the scent I shall be able to assist him in unearthing the whole litter. VENATOR.

French Maxim.—The maxim inquired after by "R. V." (No. 14. p. 215.) undoubtedly belongs to Rochefoucault. I have met with a somewhat similar passage in Massillon:—

"Le vice rend hommage à la vertu en s'honorant de s.s. apparences." J. B. M.

Feb. 5. 1850.

Shipster.—A *scip-steora* among our Anglo-Saxon ancestors was a pilot ("ship-steerer"). The word has descended to our own times in the surname of the family of Shipster. As a common noun it was not obsolete in the days of Wynkyn de Worde, who printed that curious production "*Cock Lorelle's Bote*," one line of which runs thus:—

"With gogle-eyed Tomson, *shepster* of Lyn."

It is pretty certain, however, that this masculine occupation was not the one followed by "Marie Fraunceys de Suthwerk!"

Pray accept this "Reply" for what it is worth. Perhaps I might have done better by meeting Mr. John R. Fox's "Query" (No. 14. p. 216.) with another. Should not the designation of Marie F. be *Spinster* instead of *Shipster*?

MARK ANTONY LOWER.

Lewes, Feb. 2.

Sparse.—Permit me to refer your correspondent "C. FORBES" for a reply to his query, p. 215. of your last Number, to the article "Ame-

ricanism" in the *Penny Cyclopædia*, the author of which observes:—

"*Sparse* is, for any thing we know, a new word, and well applied; the Americans say a *sparse* instead of a scattered population; and we think the term has a more precise meaning than scattered, and is the proper correlative of *dense*."

In the *Imperial Dictionary* (avowedly based upon Webster's American work, which I cannot at this moment refer to in its original form), the word in question is given both as an adjective and as a verb, and the derivatives "sparsed," "sparsedly," "sparsely," and "sparseness," are also admitted. The reference given for the origin of "sparse" is to the Latin "*sparsus*, scattered, from *spargo*;" and the definitions are, 1. "Thinly scattered, set or planted here and there; as, a *sparse* population:" and, 2., as a botanical term, "not opposite, nor alternate, nor in any regular order; applied to branches, leaves, peduncles, &c."

J. T. STANESBY.

Cosmopolis—*Complutensian Polyglot*.—Though in considerable haste, I must send replies to the fourth and eighth queries of my friend Mr. Jebb, No. 14. p. 213.

Cosmopolis was certainly Amsterdam. That the *Interpretationes paradoxæ quatuor Evangeliorum*, by Christophorus Christophori Sandius, were there printed, appears from this writer's *Bibliotheca Anti-Trinitariorum*, p. 169., Freistad, 1684. I may add that "*Coloniæ*" signifies "*Amstelædami*" in the title-page of Sandius's *Nucleus Historiæ Ecclesiasticæ*, 1676, and in the *Appendix Addendorum*, 1678, 4to.

With regard to the MSS. used in the formation of the text of the *Complutensian Polyglot*, Mr. Jebb will find an account of their discovery in a letter addressed by Dr. James Thompson to the editor of *The Biblical Review*. See also *The Irish Ecclesiastical Journal* for April, 1847. R. G.

Complutensian Polyglot.—The following extract from "The Prospectus of a Critical Edition of the New Testament," by the learned Mr. S. Prideaux Tregelles, affords a satisfactory reply to Mr. Jebb's query, No. 14. p. 212.:—

"However, there is now more certainty as to the MSS. belonging to the University of Alcalá. Dr. James Thompson has published (*Biblical Review*, March, 1847), the result of inquiries made thirty years ago by Dr. Bowring, and more recently by himself. Hence it appears that all the MSS. which formerly were known as belonging to Cardinal Ximenes, and which were preserved in the library at Alcalá, are now with the rest of that library, at Madrid. . . . Dr. José Gutierrez, the present librarian at Madrid, communicated to Dr. J. Thompson a catalogue of the Complutensian MSS., and from this it appears that the principal MSS. used in the Polyglott are all safely preserved."

J. MILNER BARRY.

Totnes, Feb. 6. 1850.