burn the other; which was immediately done. Calling to Col. Lear, he directed,—'Let my corpse be kept for the usual period of three days.' The patient bore his acute sufferings with manly fortitude, and perfect resignation to the Divine Will; while, as the night advanced, it became evident that he was sinking, and he seemed fully aware that his hour was nigh. He inquired the time, and it was answered, a few minutes to twelve. He spake no more; the hand of death was upon him, and he was conscious 'his hour was come.' With surprising self-possession, he prepared to die. Composing his form at length, and folding his hands upon his bosom, without a sigh, without a groan, the father of his country expired, gently as though an infant died. Such were the last hours of Washington."

GIBSON.

Liverpool.

MARSHAL SOULT AND THE BATTLE OF TOULOUSE.

(3rd S. viii. 252, 298.)

I have seen under the above heading certain inquiries as to how Lord Wellington could justify Soult for having caused that sanguinary engagement.

Having been wounded in that battle, in command of a regiment, by a musket ball which has never been extracted, the facts of the case have made an impression upon my mind not easily to be forgotten; I can therefore supply your readers with some information which few now living can be forgotten; I can therefore supply your readers with some information which few now living can afford. I shall, therefore, in reply to this query, beg leave to observe that, in my humble opinion, Lord Wellington was more to blame than Soult; the former having been the aggressor, and the latter having only defended himself when unnecessarily attacked.

My reasons for considering that attack unnecessary are, in the first place, that this battle was fought on April 10, 1814, and the Allies, under the Emperor of Russia, having entered Paris on the 31st of the preceding month, and proclaimed the restoration of Louis XVIII. and the downfall of Napoleon, it was evident that the war ought to have been considered as virtually at an end. Moreover, as Wellington was during that interval placed between Soult and Paris, he ought to have foreseen what little necessity there was for the loss of so many thousands of lives as were sacrificed on that occasion, which, according to the Duke's own despatches, would have been rendered unnecessary had that attack been postponed for forty-eight hours, as on April 12, two days following, the official account of Napoleon's abdication reached the Duke of Wellington.

Your readers will judge under these circumstances who was most to blame for the blood thus shed in the attack upon a position protected on three sides by the river Garonne and canal of Languedoc, and on the fourth by a range of fortified heights, on which it was discovered (after the battle had commenced) that the ground did not admit of artillery being brought to bear, owing to the heavy rains, whereby the loss to the assailants was so considerably increased, as no breaches could have been made for the admission of the two divisions, which had been detached to turn the enemy's right, after the attacks on his left under the Duke's immediate command had failed.

JOHN SCOTT LITTLE,

Late Lt.-Col. Grenadier Guards, and


Union Club.

YEOMAN.

(3rd S. viii. 286.)

I wish to add a few additional illustrations of the etymology of this word to those furnished by Mr. Buckton.

So far as concerns the Teutonic history of the word there is nothing great difficulty. The substitution in English of initial y for g, as Mr. Buckton remarks, is familiar to all students of our old literature; e. g. yet, A.-S. giet; young, A.-S. geong; yearn, A.-S. geornian, &c. This brings us to see the first syllable. Now in A.-S. there is no such word, nor do we find it in the Norse tongues. We naturally look then to the congenital Low German dialects, and in the Old Frisian, a dialect closely allied to our own, and from which many of our familiar terms are derived, we find gowman in the West Friesland, and gamon in the Eastern dialect, with the same or nearly the same meaning as our English yeoman (dorfmann, dorf-bewohner).* Pursuing our inquiries, we find the same term in Old Saxon ga, Old High German or Theodic, gawii or gowii. "In Selbex, yecki sinaz." "Into his own country or region," Æfreid. Evang. Johan. iv. In the Gothic it is gari, "afareredum in gawii Gadarene," they came into the country of the Gadarenes. (Luke viii. 26.)

The word gauja, in the passage quoted by Mr. Buckton, is evidently a mistake of some transcriber, since in the only other passage in which the word occurs it means inhabitants (Luke viii. 37), and in all other cases the Greek θάπα is uniformly rendered by gavi. The modern German representative of the term gau seems to be restricted to a flat, alluvial district bordering on a river, as Rheingau, Ammernau, Aargau.

So far our etymological excursus appears smooth and easy, but when we proceed to inquire what is gau, whence is it derived, what is its root, our difficulties commence. It seems so clear and satisfactory to connect gau with γαυα, and these again with Sanskrit स्त्र, go, that the temptation is almost too great to resist. Our older

* See Richthoven, Altfriesisches Wörterbuch, Göttingen, 1840.