

All y<sup>e</sup> quyle y<sup>e</sup> he his armes may bere  
Yeris [?] nouthur treson in fals trechery,  
Ne curst destynny shall hym neuer dere  
Byfore y<sup>e</sup> kynde of age opon hym draw.  
As euxermene [?] is Worms see  
When he shall ende i cristis lawe  
And i Jesephath buryet shall be."

Though I must confess that I am not by any means able to comprehend the whole of the above, I cannot but suspect that it has some political meaning. What place are we to understand by Soudyforth? and who are represented by the lion, the fox, the dragon, the bull, the eagle, the antelope, the horse, the bear, the filmart, the py-cart, the pye, the proud Prince, and the dead man?

Beneath this are the following fragments:—

"A lepard engenderet of natyf kynd  
In y<sup>e</sup> storr of bethelem shall [word illegible]  
In y<sup>e</sup> pthe [?]  
Y<sup>e</sup> met and y<sup>e</sup> meyr maydyn  
Meywyt [?] in mynde  
Cryst y<sup>e</sup> is owr creatur has  
Curset thayme w<sup>t</sup> mowche."

This does not appear, from its position, to be a continuation of the former piece; still it may be so.

"Spyknard di ollm	-	-	-	vjd.
Salynga de ollm	-	-	-	ijjd.
ffenell sede j owns	-	-	-	jd.
Iromell sed de owns	-	-	-	jd.
Licoryse j owns	-	-	-	jd.
Annes di owns	-	-	-	jd.
Synems in di owns	-	-	-	jd.
Comyn di owns	-	-	-	jd.

Sene y<sup>e</sup> werthe of all thes.  
This is medycyn for wynt."

HERMENTRUDE.

#### LONGEVITY.

I have cut the following paragraph from a local newspaper. It is much at your service, if you deem it worthy of preservation:—

"THREE CENTURIES AND A HALF AGO.—'I have seen a man who conversed with a man who fought at Flodden Field,' may be said by a venerable octogenarian gentleman to whom we are indebted for the following most interesting memorandum:—The writer of this, when an infant, saw Peter Garden, who died at the age of 126. When 12 years old, on a journey to London about the year 1670, in the capacity of page in the family of Garden of Troup, he became acquainted with the venerable Henry Jenkins, and heard him give evidence in a court of justice at York, that he 'perfectly remembered being employed, when a boy, in carrying arrows up the hill at the battle of Flodden.'

"It was fought in	.	.	A.D. 1513
Add Henry Jenkins's age	.	169	
Less	.	11	
			158
Peter Garden	.	126	
Less his age when at York	.	12	
			114
The writer of this in 1865, aged	.	80	

A.D. 1865."

—Edinburgh Courier.

T. B.

[We cannot insert the foregoing without pointing out some of the more obvious errors it contains.

Of course Henry Jenkins is dragged into the story, though we believe that there is not the slightest ground for believing in his reputed age. Jenkins is now described as "a man who had fought at Flodden." His own improbable statement was, that he remembered Flodden Field, when "he was sent to North Allerton with a horse-load of arrows, but they sent a *bigger boy* from thence to the army with them." So much for the man who had fought at Flodden.

Now the intervening link between this man and the octogenarian is "Peter Garden," who died at the age of 126 (?) "and on a journey to London about 1670," "became acquainted with Jenkins," and "heard him give evidence in a court of justice at York, that he perfectly remembered being employed when a boy in carrying arrows up the hill at the battle of Flodden."

How lucky it is that Peter Garden was at York in 1670, for in that very year Jenkins died; and though we are told in the accounts of him that he was "often at the assizes at York," the only recorded evidence of his which is in existence, was given in a case at Catterick in 1667, and in that evidence there is not a word about Flodden.

We need not stop to ask how the Octogenarian, who only saw Peter Garden, knows all he tells us about that venerable person; but we should like to know how it happened that he saw him at all. For though we have no evidence that Peter Garden was 126, or as to where or when he was born, we learn from other sources that he died in 1775, just ninety years ago. How a gentleman, who is only an octogenarian, could have seen Peter Garden, who died before any octogenarian now living was born, is only one of the many contradictions and absurdities in this strange story which it will be for the correspondent of the *Edinburgh Courier* to explain.—Ed. "N. & Q."]

MARY DOWNTON (3rd S. viii. 64, 157.)—I think this case of longevity will turn out an authentic one. Through her daughter I learn that the maiden name of this centenarian was Mary Hardeman, that her birthplace was Thorncombe, near Chard, and also that she was "a love-child." Accordingly, the Thorncombe Register supplies the following:—

"Baptism in 1761. Mary, daughter of Mary Harde-man, b—, baptized March 22nd."

As she died in November, 1860, this would make her nearly 100 at the time of her decease; but I well remember the old lady's telling me that she "recollected walking to church to be christened at about the age of four or five years." She may therefore very fairly have been in her 105th year at the time of her death, which is only one year less than the age which she claims to be.

JUXTA TURRIM.

[We feel greatly indebted to JUXTA TURRIM for the trouble he has taken in investigating the case of Mary Downton. We hope he will not find fault with us if we distrust her recollection of "walking to church to be christened"—a rather unlikely proceeding with regard to a base-born child, who would as a rule be baptized when the mother was "churched."—and content ourselves with believing what the Register confirms, that Mary Downton was "nearly a hundred at the time of her decease."—Ed. "N. & Q."]