

"Under an armed woman, holding a spear, book, and palm branch, is the word

'VICTORIA;'

"Under another woman:

'LIBERTAS;'

"Under a river god:

'SCALDA.'

"This curious gun, vulgarly called *Queen Elizabeth's Pocket Pistol*, was a present from the emperor Charles V. to Henry VIII., while they were engaged together in a war with France. The author of the *Magna Britannia* gives it the name of *Basilisco* [*Basiliscus* or βασιλικον?]. It requires 15 pounds of powder, and will carry a ball seven or eight miles, or, as they say, to Calais [in compliance with an oral order of Charles?].

"I am, yours, &c.

"D. H."

Having thus, to the best of my knowledge, answered the inquiry of D. H., I too should like to address some questions to those who have a better opportunity for information on this subject. I wish to know,—

1st. Whether the above-mentioned monster gun be still extant, and whereabouts?

2nd. Whether its length be accurately given; the diameter of the bore, and the weight of the ball?

3rd. Whether it ever was used?

4th. Whether the name of "*Queen Elizabeth's Pocket Pistol*" be a proof that it was used in her time?

5th. Whether the copy of the principal inscription, as it reads here (*ich* for *ick*), can be relied on?

A transcript of what the author of *Magna Britannia* says about the subject* would be acceptable to

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Minor Queries.

Chief Justice Sir Oliver Leader.—Your correspondents' information is requested as to the ancestors or descendants of Sir Oliver Leader, who was Chief Justice† of the Court of Common

wall and rampart¹, am I called; through mount and vale bores my ball, by me hurled.

Schuret is for *scheuret*, *scheurt*, from *scheuren*, to rend, to tear.

The founder's name sounds, in English, John Tothuys of Utrecht.²

[* It is thus noticed in the *Magna Britannia*, p. 1172. "There is a curiously engraven piece of ordnance (called *Basilisco*) twenty-four foot long, reported to have been presented to King Henry VIII. by the Emperor."]

[† No such name appears in Foss's List of the Judges for these reigns.—Ed. "N. & Q."]

¹ Anglicé, *Bridget Rendall*.

² It appears not to have been unusual in those times to name guns.

Pleas under Henry VII., Henry VIII., and Edward VI., and died in the year 1552 or 1553. He was buried at Great Stoughton, Hunts. In his will he spells his name Leder, Ledre, Leeder, and Leader.

V. S. D.

Quotations wanted. —

"There's something ails the spot, the place is cursed."

Can any reader of "N. & Q." supply the reference and context of the above line? I am not quite sure as to the exact accuracy of the quotation.

NORTHUMBRIENSIS.

"Admire, weep, laugh, exult, despise,
For here is room for all such feeling."

A. B. C.

Female Society at Hitcham.—Mrs. Carter, in a letter dated in 1768, vol. ii. p. 16, writes:—

"You never told me that the society at Hitcham was dissolved. My informant makes grievous lamentation for the scandal which she supposes this event will reflect on female friendship. Possibly it may; but the true state of the case seems to me, that people do not disagree either because they are men, or because they are women, but because they are human creatures. Indeed it ought to raise no disadvantageous ideas of these ladies, that they did not find themselves so happy as they had expected to be in their scheme of living together. The only error was, the want of consideration from which they embarked in it."

Who was the founder of this society? What was its object, and who were the members or chief managers of it?

FRA. MEWBURN.

Physicians to the late Duke of York.—Can you help me to any information about a physician named Molloy, who was much about the late Duke of York? Also, can you tell me who were the Duke's physicians previous to Dr. McGregor? who was, I believe, the last who held that post.

E. A. C.

Irish, the Court Language of Scotland.—My query is, When did the Irish or ancient Scotie language cease to be spoken at the court of the kings of Scotland?

The Gaelic King Kenneth united his own Scotie kingdom with that of the Picts, whom he subdued, about the year 843. At that period, and for many generations afterwards, the king and his nobles would doubtless retain and speak their own Erse dialect; for probably they would not have a choice of speaking any other. But after the seat of royalty was removed into the Lothians, the influence of the Teutonic branch of the population of Scotland must have made itself felt, and the result showed itself in the English (or Inglis) language becoming the language of the court. But when was this revolution effected? And are there any existing data which show its epoch?

There are *soupeçons*, certainly, that the Gaelic tongue was in favour with Scottish royalty until a