

(the reading of some copies), because it is much more natural to suppose a hunter strangled by bears than by boars.

Hopposteres has been supposed to signify *pilots*; "Yet saw I burnt the ships' pilots;" but for this interpretation no satisfactory reason has been assigned. Again, it has been suggested that, as "hoppsterres" once signified, or may have signified, female dancers, the expression *ships' hopposteres* means "dancing ships," i. e. ships at sea, pitching and labouring. Others, again, would read "ships upon the steries," or ships steering their course.

Not feeling satisfied with either of these interpretations, I would venture to suggest that *hopposteres* is an old form of the word *upholsteries*.

The *op* for *up* is Dutch, *ophouden* being the Dutch word corresponding to our *uphold*.

The *l* of *upholstery* is absorbed in *hopposterie*, as often before *s*.

The *h* of *hopposterie* is the *h* of *upholstery* a little out of place. This, however, is not the only instance in which Chaucer prefixes the letter *h*. For Elysium we find *Helise*; for Eloisa, *Helowis*; for abundant, *habundant*.

I would understand, then, by ships' *hopposteres*, or *upholsteries*, the dockyards or arsenals where ships are refitted; not taking *upholstery* in the sense of the ships' tackling or furniture, but rather in that of the *place* where such furniture is supplied. *Conf.* surgery, rookery, piggery, grapery, and, in the more contracted form, laundry, foundry, vestry, &c. The yard where the ship receives repairs, and is fitted with her tackling, is the ship's *upholstery* or *hopposterie*.

This interpretation will make a connected sense with the preceding line:—

"The toun destroyed, ther was nothing left—
Yet saw I brent the shippes' hopposteres."

That is, Nothing was left to be burnt of the town itself; but I saw the dockyards burnt in addition.

In connexion with this view of a ship's *hopposterie* or *upholstery*, as signifying a place where ships were fitted and repaired, we may remark that in the Scottish language, "uphald," as a noun substantive, signifies the act of maintaining a building by giving it the necessary repairs, or the obligation to do so.

THOMAS BOYS.

Minor Notes.

French Protestants.—It appears that after the year 1762 the Protestants in France were no longer condemned to the galleys. For this alleviation of their sufferings they were indebted, it would seem, to a fresh interference on their behalf by the English government, through the medium of the Duke of Bedford, who was ambassador

to the French Court at that time. The Archbishop of Canterbury had also written to the Duc de Nivernois on the same subject; but from an interesting, inedited letter written by Saint Florentin to the Duc de Choiseul, and now first printed in *La France Protestante*, tom. vii., 8vo., Paris, 1857, from the Registres du Secrétariat, Archives Gen., E. 3524., there appeared no hope at that time of the French government departing from the intolerant maxims of Louis XIV. Count Saint Florentin was Minister of the Interior, and managed all the affairs of the state with reference to the Protestants. He was accused of having issued an immense number of *lettres de cachet* during his ministry; and from his letter now quoted, which is too long for "N. & Q.," he was not likely to assist the Protestants in breaking their fetters. This gracious act was reserved for the Duc de Choiseul, and his still more liberal and powerful successors; and, above all, for that great Revolution which so awfully avenged centuries of misgovernment and oppression. J. M.

Telegram.—The oldest date given to this word as yet is two years ago, and its earliest habitat the United States. It may be carried farther, for it was used in Liverpool four years ago, and nearly as long ago in London. HYDE CLARKE.

A Surgeon in the Army to rank as an Ensign.—Eighty years ago it was customary in the English army, when a surgeon was appointed to a regiment, to hand him at the same time an ensign's commission. Dr. Freer served in this rank at the battle of Bunker's Hill. W. W. Malta.

War Cries.—The Normans at Hastings, "Ha Rou, Ha Rou, Notre dame, Dex aide." The old Scandinavian cry was "Thor aide." The British cry at the defeat of the Picts, A.D. 220, was "Alleluia." The Saxon cry was "Out, out! Holy Cross!" MACKENZIE WALCOTT, M.A.

Devonshire Notice.—Mr. CL. HOPPER's copy of notice in Kensington Gardens (2nd S. iv. 351.) reminds me of a printed placard put up, and sent round the county by three of our, since departed, magistrates, at the time of the expected French invasion, directing all constables, &c., whenever a landing took place in Devonshire, "To drive all Oxen, Donkeys, Sheep, Pigs, Women, and other Cattle to the interior of Dartmoor." W. C. Haldon.

The oldest Judge in the United States.—The *Fayetteville Observer* furnishes a notice of the venerable Henry Potter, United States judge for the district of North Carolina, an office which he has filled with dignity, integrity, and ability for fifty-five years, and which, at the great age of

ninety-one, he still survives to fill to the universal satisfaction and respect of the community in which he resides.

W. W.

Malta.

Rood-Lofts.—Staircases to rood-lofts remain in S. Peter's, Oxford; S. Michael's, Sopley; Rochford, Essex; S. Mary's le Port, Bristol; Hadleigh, Essex; Hawkhurst. The doors remain at Dorchester, Henley, &c. Rood-lofts remain at Hinxton, Littleport, Guilden-Morden, W. Wickham, Chippenham, Cherry Hinton, Over, Kirtling, Quy, co. Camb.; N. Crawley, Bucks; Felmersham, Tillbrook, Pertenhall, Clifton, Beds.; Drayton, Berks; at Totness, Paington, Westham (Sussex), Honiton; at Hawstead (Suffolk) with the original sacring-bell, Edington*, Collumpton, Uffendon*, Bradninch, Dartmouth, Kenton, Plymtree*, Hartland, Long Sutton, Kingsbury Episcopi, Barnwell Dunster, Timberscombe, Minehead, Winsham, Newark, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Sydenham, Hook Norton, Boddicote, Handborough, Merevale, Knowle, Worm Leighton, Flamstead, Little Malvern, Rodney Stoke, &c.

MACKENZIE WALCOTT, M.A.

Queries.

KING ALFRED'S DESCRIPTION OF EUROPE, AND THE VOYAGES OF OUTHERE AND WULFSTAN.

This description of Europe, and these voyages, are most interesting; not only as the composition of Alfred, but invaluable as historical documents,—being authentic records of the nations located between the Don on the east and the Rhine and North Sea on the west; the Danube on the south and the White Sea on the north,—written by a contemporary so early as the ninth century. These Anglo-Saxon documents have claimed and received the attention, not only of Englishmen, but of foreigners, as the following Note on the various editions of one or more of them will prove. As I received much valuable information from MR. HAMPTON, MR. SINGER, and DR. BELL, through "N. & Q." for the improvement of the notes to my quarto facsimile edition of these documents, as well as the cheap one in octavo, I am anxious, before I publish my notes on the whole of Orosius, to ascertain, through the same medium, if there be any other editions, or works giving valuable information on the subject, besides those which follow:—

1598. Hakluyt. Fol. Lond. English, by Lambard.
1659. Somner. Fol. Lond. Anglo-Sax. and Latin.
Wulfstan, *Dict. sub gedrync.*
1678. Alumni Oxonienses. Fol. Oxon. Anglo-Sax. and Latin.
1709. Spelman. 8vo. Oxon. English.

* Those marked * being coloured and gilded.

1733. Bussæus. 4to. Havn. Anglo-Sax. and Latin.
1744. 2nd edit. id. Merely new title?
1765. Murray. 8vo. Gött. Notes.
1773. Barrington. 8vo. Lond. Anglo-Sax. and English.
1773. Langebeck. Fol. Hafn. Anglo-Sax. and Latin.
1786. Forster. 4to. Lond. English, with notes.
1796. Potoki. 4to. Bruns. Anglo-Sax. and French.
1800. Porthan. 12mo. Stock. Anglo-Sax. and Swedish.
1807. Ingram. 4to. Oxon. Anglo-Sax. and English.
1808. Beckmann. 8vo. Gött. Notes.
1815. Rask. 8vo. Copen. Anglo-Sax. and Danish.
Id. 2nd edit., 1834. 8vo. Id.
1822. Dahlmann. 8vo. Alton. German.
1834. Peterson. 8vo. Copen. Geog. notes Danish.
1837. Zeus. 8vo. Münch. *Die Deutschen und nachbarstämme.* Notes.
1838. Leo. 8vo. Halle. Anglo-Sax., and Glossary. Germania.
1846. Thorpe's *Analecta.* 12mo. Lond. Anglo-Sax., and Glossary.
1847. Ebeling. 4to. Leipz. Anglo-Sax.
1852. Rafn (Munch). 4to. Copen. Anglo-Sax. and Latin.
1853. Thorpe's *Orosius.* 8vo. Lond. Anglo-Sax. and English.

I have not yet had an opportunity of perusing Sprengel's *Geschichte*, Halle, 1792, nor Giesebrecht's *Wendische Geschichte*, Berlin, 1843.

JOSEPH BOSWORTH.

The Lodge, Islip, Oxford.

MONSTER GUN (QUEEN ELIZABETH'S POCKET PISTOL) AT DOVER.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1767, vol. xxxvii. p. 499., I read the following letter to

"MR. URBAN.

"On the most southern point of the cliff which forms the platform of Dover Castle, lies a brass gun, 24 feet long without, and 22 feet long in the bore, beautifully adorned with flowers, and emblematical figures, in relief, and these inscriptions are raised on it in Roman capitals:

'IAN TOLIVVS VAN VTRECHT. 1544.'

"This I suppose to be the founder's name. Under it is a shield, with six chevrons quartering a fess indented. On a scutcheon of pretence a saltire cheque. Motto, SANS AVLTRE. The arms of *England* in a garter, with

'DIEV ET MON DROIT.'

"Then follows an inscription, of which some of your readers may perhaps give us a translation:

'BRECH SCVRET AL MYER ENDE WAL
BIN ICH GEHELEN
DOEZ BERGH EN DAL BOERT MINEN BAL
VAN MI GESMETEN.'

"By the help of *Sewell's Dutch* dictionary, I take the literal meaning to be—*To break down all fortifications and walls am I commanded. Through hill and dale bores (or pierces) my ball by me throwen (or discharged).* I must confess, however, I cannot find the word *scuret*, nor are any of the words spelt according to the present orthography.*

* The literal translation of the inscription, though pretty well understood by the querist of 1767, is as follows:—

Brech (diminutive for *Breyje*, *Bridget*) *rends* [it] *all*