

Review's Question Box.

[Subscribers who ask questions to be answered in the "Question Box" should send their names in confidence to the editor, not necessarily for publication.]

W. W. W.—(1) Would you kindly suggest what topics could be asked from Silas Marner at an examination.

(2) Please give a short sketch of the Lay of the Last Minstrel.

(1) Examiners will smile at the candour of this question. If the REVIEW gave a series of topics on which the examiner might frame his questions that guileless individual would probably laugh in his sleeve and go off on quite a different tack. The only way to be prepared for an examination is to study your subject thoroughly.

(2) Scott's "Lay" was published in 1805. It was intended to be a more cultured form of the old Border ballad, retaining its vigour of movement while softening its expression. The time occupied by the action of the poem is three nights and three days. The plot with its spirited events can best be realized by reading the story. The noble patriotic stanzas with which the sixth canto begins,

Lives there a man with soul so dead,

Are probably better known and more often quoted than any other lines that Scott has written.

L. A. W.—Kindly answer the following questions through the columns of the REVIEW. (1) What is the surname of the British sovereign? (2) How wide is the Panama Canal?

(1) The King has no surname. This is true of the present King of England, as well as of several other sovereigns of European countries. King George and his direct male ancestors belong to a family that has always been a ruling family since some time before the use of family names began; therefore they have never needed a family name, and never had one. The same was true of Queen Victoria. The last sovereign of the British Empire possessed of a family name was Queen Anne, who was Anne Stuart. The name of Stuart, or Stewart, belonged to her family before it was royal. So, too, the Tudor sovereigns were Tudor by name; but this was not true of the Norman or Plantagenet kings, nor of the sovereigns of the House of Brunswick. Guelph was no more their family name than was Brunswick or Hanover. Hence, when some of the

princes of that house who married in contravention of the Royal Marriage Act needed surnames for their morganatic wives and their offsprings, they were obliged to invent such names. Some have taken the name of Estey, or d'Este, the territorial designation of one of the noblest ancestors of George I. None took the name of Guelph. It has been said that the name of the Prince Consort, the present King's grandfather, was Wettin; but that, too, was a title, and not a family name. The sons of George IV were called FitzGeorge; and the sons of William IV, born in lawful wedlock, though not legitimate heirs to the throne because of the Royal Marriage Act, and duly acknowledged as sons, though not as Princes of the Blood—sons who were present as chief mourners at his funeral, and lowered his body to its last resting place—bore the name of Fitz-Clarence, if Clarence was his ducal title, and, writing from memory, I think it was. So it is perfectly correct to say that King George's family has no family name, and never had one, because it was a ruling family long before family names came into use. If he should abdicate, and, renouncing all his titles, wish to be known as an untitled English gentleman, he would be quite free to adopt any name he chose to select. Being a man of good taste, he might select Smith; because his grandfather, following the laudable German custom that every boy should learn some handicraft, was a locksmith by trade. Or he might call himself Seaman, for that is his own trade. His father, King Edward, was a printer.—J. V.

(2) The breadth at the bottom as at first projected is seventy-two to seventy-eight feet, at the surface of the water ninety-two to one hundred and sixty-four feet. The length of the canal is forty-six miles.

E. M. F.—Which country has the greater number of lakes, United States or Canada? Why are there so many small lakes in one country and so few in the other?

There is a greater lake space and probably a greater number of lakes, large and small, in Canada than in the United States. This is due, as our correspondent intimates in her letter, to the results of glacial action which is responsible for more lakes in northern and eastern Canada than any other causes.