

In your September number you have allowed a correspondent to mis-quote the above song, taken from Shakespeare's "Cymbeline," and also to cast a slur upon the grammatical accuracy of the author. This has not been corrected in your October issue, and therefore I beg of you to insert the following copy of the first verse of that song, taken from the edition of Shakespeare's works, in 9 vols., edited by Mr. Pope, and published in the year 1747, by J. and P. Knapton, S. Birt, T. Longman, J. and R. Tonson, B. Dod and others. The verse is as follows:—

"Hark, hark, the lark at heav'n's gate sings,
And Phoebus 'gins arise,
His steeds to water at those springs
Each chalic'd flower supplies,"

Whilst upon this subject you will perhaps allow me to correct two mistakes, which, so far as I know, are always to be found in Shakespeare's works. The first mistake occurs in the song of Ver, at the end of "Love's Labour's Lost."

"When daisies pied, and violets blue,
And lady-smocks all silver white,
And cuckow buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight;
The cuckow then, on every tree," &c.

The absurdity of "painting the meadows with delight," has induced some one to suggest an alteration of the words into—

"Do paint the meadows much bedight;"

but in reality the only alteration needed, consists in transposing the semicolon from the word "delight" to the word "meadows," when the song reads thus:—

"Do paint the meadows;—with delight
The cuckow then, on every tree," &c.

And this no doubt was as Shakespeare put it, unless he placed a colon, or even a full stop, after the word meadows.

The other mistake is no less apparent, though the correction is by no means so satisfactory—it occurs in a speech or soliloquy by Lady Macbeth, in the 7th scene. The words are,—

"Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the
dark,
To cry, Hold! hold!"

These words, on the authority of a very old manuscript copy of "Macbeth," I venture to alter into

"Nor heaven break through the stillness of the
dark,
To cry, Hold! hold!"

Of the manuscript copy in question, I can say that it was purchased by my grand-

father, at York, in the year 1769, and has remained in our family ever since. It bears upon different parts of it many signatures, the oldest of which is "Jac. Walker, 1692;" but there is one which evidently alludes to a political event in agitation at the time, and is therefore curious: it is a rhyme copied below as follows, both in spelling and words:—

"Rightes Right, lawiers declaire
the Son succedes the Father.
If so wye then beyond compare
I chuse the Stuart rathir.

C. R. R.

7 Veneris 5^o die Martii 1707."

PELOX.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS, AND REPLIES.

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS.—We beg to point out that we receive so many contributions of all sorts and kinds, that it is impossible to read them and decide on their merits at once. It takes time to look over the large number of MSS. sent to us, and it is only reasonable to ask our contributors to exercise patience—pledging ourselves to give a careful consideration to all that is sent.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Several communications, Queries, Replies, Poetry, and contributions, arrived too late for acknowledgment in the January number. Others in type have been crowded out.

CLERICUS.—(1.) Get a banner of the Cross, of the B. V. M. (as she is the patron saint of your church), and the arms of the diocese, and these will suffice. (2.) There are many in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

S. M. G.—At that period baptism by immersion was common. Hence deaconesses baptized women, and women only. Midwives were licensed to baptize by some of our bishops until George the First's reign.

S. C. and S. M. C.—Ask those who do so, which would be at once sensible, and enable them to give you an answer, which we cannot.

J. A. R.—A bishop wears a pectoral cross, but not a lay-sacristan.

KAFFA.—The prelates of the Church in Holland; of which the Archbishop of Utrecht is the head, trace their apostolical descent through previous prelates who were in visible communion with Rome. Their orders are quite unquestionable. The Scandinavian Church has no valid orders.

C. and D. NEWMAN.—Butler's "Lives of the Saints" will serve your purpose, or Mr. Baring Gould's new volumes.

E. E. D. (Liverpool).—The stole is symbolical of priestly authority.

T. A.—We are unable to inform you. Apply to Novello, the music-publishers.