

The letters M and N in the marriage service of the Prayer Book.—Some suppose that they were merely taken from the alphabet as being the two middle letters, and applied in the same manner as we make use of A and B at the present time.

The letters N and M in the Catechism.—Some suppose, as in the marriage service, Nupta and Maritus. Other again state that they originate from the initials of Nomen and Nomina—thus N, nomen—M or (N N) nomina.

The letters L, s., d.—The letters L, s., d., and qr. are the initials of the Latin words, libra, solidus, denarius, and quadrans, which respectively signify a pound, a shilling, a penny, and a farthing, or quarter.

The letters on a Guinea.—Explanation of these letters: Georgius III. Dei Gratia, M. B. F. ET. H. Rex, F. D. B. ET. L. D. S. R. J. A. T. ET. E. That is, Georgius Tertius, Dei Gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor, Brunsvici et Lunenburgi Dux, Sacri Romani Imperii, Archi-Thesaurarius et Elector.

In English—George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire.

LADY is a word which gives us a most pleasing idea of the customs of our Saxon ancestors. The term is compounded of two Saxon words, leaf or laf, signifying a loaf of bread, and dian, to give or to serve. Now, it must be known that it was the fashion in times of old for those families whom heaven had blessed with affluence, to give away regularly a portion of bread to those poor neighbours who might stand in need of assistance, and on such occasions the mistress of the household herself officiated, distributing with her own hands the daily or weekly dole.

Larch.—(A species of pine) so called because first coming from Larissa, a town in ancient Thessaly.

LONGOBARDS OR LONGBEARDS.—Hence Lombardy. The Longobards or Longbeards, who had overrun and taken possession of the great plain of the basin of the Po, retained to some extent their separate independence even under the empire of Germany. They had their own laws and customs, and were in the habit of crowning the Emperor, or whoever else was acknowledged, as King of Lombardy.

"THOU LIEST."—The great affront of giving the lie arose from the phrase, "Thou liest," in the oath taken by the defendant in judicial combats before engaging in the ordeal of battle.

THE LION AND THE UNICORN.—James I. was the first who united the lion and unicorn heraldically, adopting the latter beast from the supporters of the Scottish sovereigns. The conjunction of these animals on an ecclesiastical vestment on the period of the Reformation, must be attributed to religious symbolism rather than to any heraldic arrangement.

LYCÆUM.—Took its name from having been originally a temple of Apollo Lycæus. It was a celebrated spot near the banks of the Ilissus in Attica (Greece) when Aristotle taught philosophy, and as he taught his pupils while he walked, hence they are called peripatetics, B.C. 342.

M

MARRIAGE THE KING'S DISHES WITH THE COOKS' NAMES.—George II. was accustomed every other year to visit his German dominions with the greater part of the officers of his household, and especially those belonging to the kitchen.

the above soup. One named Weston, father of Tom Weston the player, undertook it; and so pleased the king, that he declared it was full as good as that made by the first cook.

Soon after the king's return to England, the first cook died; when the king was informed of it, he said that his steward of the household always appointed the cooks, but that now he would name one for himself, and therefore asking if one Weston was still in the kitchen, and being answered that he was, "That man," said he "shall be my first cook, for he makes most excellent Rhenish soup."

By this means the king detected their arts, and from that time Weston's dishes pleased him most. The custom has continued ever since, and is still practised at the royal table.

MARRIAGE BY CLOG AND SHOE.—In the registers of the church at Haworth, in Yorkshire, now famous for the place where Miss Brontë, "Currer Bell," lived and died, and also remarkable for the wonderful assurance with which its inhabitants, past and present, have asserted its church to have been founded in the year 600, there occurs an entry giving a list of "marriages at Bradford, and by clog and shoe in Lancashire, but paid the minister of Haworth" the fees mentioned. This is in the year 1733.

THE MARSEILLAISE HYMN.—When the Prussians and Austrians marched against France in 1792, to restore Louis XIV. to his throne, the National Assembly declared that the country was in danger, and called upon all Frenchmen to enlist under the banners of Liberty to repel the invaders.

MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S.—Once upon a time there lived an old woman who kept a public house and could not write, and was accustomed to credit her customers with marking a P for a pint of ale, and a Q for a quart.

MAGI.—The Persian worshippers of fire, founded by Zoroaster, who flourished B.C. 1080; his creed was that pain followed pleasure as surely as the shadow the substance, and thus worshipped fire for its power and purity.

MAL OF BAG.—It comes from the Greek word mallos, a fleece or wool; for long, long ago, the bags were made of the skins of beasts with their hair on, and the name is still continued, though now made of dressed leather.

MAYPOLES AND GARLANDS.—It was a custom among the ancient Britons, before they were converted to Christianity, to erect Maypoles, adorned with flowers, in honour of the goddess Flora; and the dancing of milkmaids on the first of May before garlands, ornamented with flowers, is only a corruption of the ancient custom, in compliance with other rustic amusements.

The leisure days after seed-time had been chosen by our Saxon ancestors for folk-motes, or conventions of the people. It was not till after the Norman conquest that the Pagan festival of Whitsuntide fully melted into the Christian holiday of Pentecost.

A TEXAS SHIRT.—"Editors," we are told by some writers, "have a first rate time in Texas. The ladies of a town out there have given to the editor of a paper an embroidered shirt, which contains a pictorial history of Texas, including the war with Mexico, the meeting of the first Legislature and also pictures of the fruits and cereals of the State, all worked in worsted.

trailing, they blushed, and said they were very sorry they had made it too long. But a committee man took the editor aside, and explained the shirt to him in a whisper, and the next day he appeared at his office with the shirt mounted over his coat, and wrote four columns of explanation for his paper.

THE EFFECT OF ALCOHOL ON THE HUMAN BODY.—Some very interesting experiments have recently been made by Professor Parkes, F. R. S., and Count Wollowicz, M.D., on this subject, these gentlemen having availed themselves of the willingness and zeal of a very intelligent healthy soldier to become the subject of the experiments.

CONSUMPTION SNUFFED OUT.—At the recent meeting of the British Medical Association at Newcastle, a paper was presented by Dr. John Murray, on "Snuff-taking, and its Utility in Preventing Bronchitis and Consumption," containing much that is no doubt true in reference to the influence of snuff-taking, in so altering the delicate mucous membrane of the nose, where so many colds begin, as to render it less liable to be irritated by the ordinary external causes of catarrh, but containing also much that will be regarded as the result of the author riding his hobby beyond a reasonable limit.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 299 Notre Dame Street.

Table with 3 columns: Day, 9 A.M., 1 P.M., 6 P.M. Rows include days of the week from Wednesday to Tuesday.

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