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 some manner as we make use of A and B at the present time. Others suppose their origin in the Latin words Maritus and Nupla. Y. L., of All Souls, Oxford, says that the only in-telligible explanation he ever heard was that they stood for Nicholas and Mary-St. Nicholas being the patron saint of boys, as Our Lady is of girls.

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 Nomingthus 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 mark I, which sometimes separates the shillings and ponce, is a corruption of the long f(s), arising from the rapidity with which it is made.

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, Magna Britannia, Francia et Hibernia Rex, Fidei Defensor, Branswich et Lamenburgi Dux, Sacri Romani Imperif, 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 Lunenburgh, Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Ho y Roman Empire.

Laur is a word which gives us a most pleasing idea of the enstoms of our Saxon ancestors. The term is compounded of two Saxon words, leaf or tai, 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. Hence was she called the Inf-dy, or the bread-giver, and, in course of time, the word was abbreviated to its present form. A writer of the last century, in refer nee to this derivation of ludy, observes that "the meaning is now as little known as the practice which gave rise to it; yet it is from that hospitable custom that, to this day, the ladies, in this kingdom alone, serve the meat at their own tables." It is to be feared that, in the great manoral families referred to, even this remnant of the old custom is not now very general. It was certainly so, however, in Lady Mary Wortley Montague's time, for we are informed by her noble editor that, in her youth, she received regular instructions in the art of carving or serving meat. And Lady Mary was a duke's daughter, But, changed as such tashious may now be, there are still, we are happy to think, many true ladies in this much-abused world of ours-many generous bread-givers-many who feed the hungry and befriend the friendless.

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

LONGORARDS 'R LONGREARDS-Hence Lomburdy. The Longobards or Longbeards, who had overrun and tak in possession i 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 clse was seknowledged, as King of Lombardy. Hence, too, Napoleon were the iron crown of their kings. This famed symbol of kingship was deposited in the Cathedral of Monza; it is a broad circle of gold, set with large rubies, emeralds, and sapphires, and was secured in an ornamented cross placed over an altar, closely shut up within folding doors of gilt brass. The crown is kept in an octagonal aperture in the centre of the cross. It is composed of six equal pieces of heaten gold, joined together by close hinges, and the jewels and embossed gold ornaments are set in a ground of blue and gold enamel, interesting as exhibiting an exact resemblance to the workmanship of the enamelled part of a gold ornament now in the Ashmolean Museum, which once belonged to King Alfred, But for those who have an appetite for relies, the most important part of this crown is a narrow iron rim, which is attached to the inside of it all round. The rim is about threeeighths of an inch broad, and a tenth of an inch thick, made out of one of the nails used in the Crucifixion. The crown is said to have been presented to Constantine by his mother; and the sacred iron rim, from which it has its name, was to protect him in battle. And, although this iron has now been exposed upon it.

"They Likst,"-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; the lion typifying fortitude and strength, while the unicorn is emblematical of fortitude and chastity. As such, the former may have reference to our Lord "The Lion of Judah," and the latter may be an emblem of the Virgin Mary. The tradition with regard to the unicorn, that it would never be enught, except by a virgin, and that if its skin was at all defiled it would be sure to pine away and dir, is well known.

Lycsus - Took its name from having been originally a temple of Apollo Lyceus. It was a celebrated spot near the banks of the Hissus in Attien (Greece) when Aristotle taught philosophy, and as he taught his pupils while he walked, hence they are called peripateties, B.C. 342.

MARKING THE KINO'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. Once on his passage at sea, his first cook was so ill with the sen-sickness, that he could not hold up his head to dress his majesty's dinner; this being told to the king, he was exceedingly sorry for which he said he would "fling it out forever to the breezes of it, as he was famous for making a Rhenish sorp, which his ma- heaven, that they might kiss its folds, and that until his hand just were now form.

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 be 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." This favour begot envy among all the servants, so that when any dish was found fault with, they used to say it was Weston's dressing. The king took notice of this, and said to the servants it was very extraordinary that every dish he disliked should happen to be Weston's; in future," said he, " let every dish be marked with the name of the cook that makes it."

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

MARRIAGE BY CLOG AND SHOE .- In the registers of the church at Haworth, in Yorkshire, now famous for the place where Miss Bronte, "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. Haworth is not far from the border of Lancachire. What is the meaning of "marriages by clog and shoe in Lancashire?" In some parts of the West Riding, it is customary to throw old shoes and old slippers after the newly-married pair when starting on the wedding tour. I was once present at a marriage on the banks of the river Holme, at which London, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales were well represented, when nearly all present took part in the practice. The moment the carriage which contained the bride and bridegroom, and which was drawn by four splendid grays, began to move off, a score or more shoes and slippers were seen flying after it. The custom is said to be expressive of good luck and prosperity to the newly-mar-Haworth, matrimony was subject to a singular toll in the reign of Edward II. It was ordained "that every bride coming ! that way should either give her left shoe or 3s. 4d, to the forester of Crookryse by way of custom or gayt-cloys." This and the preceding custom gives the connection with that of log and shoe.

trians 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. Marseilles furnished a legion of twelve hundred turbulent spirits, and Lamartine gives a graphic account of their triumphant entry into Paris, on their way to the frontier. Their brozed faces, with eyes of fires, their uniforms covered with the dust of their journey, their red woollen caps shaded with green boughs, their lack of discipline, and their harsh provincial accent-all struck the imagination of the Parisians with great force. The revolutionary idea seemed impersonated, and to be marching to the last assault of royalty, chanting an air whose notes seem to come from the breast with sullen mutterings of national anger and then with the joy of victory. Since then, when France has been in danger, the Marsellaise has never failed to arouse and animate her sous for "Liberty or

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. Que time she quarrelled with one of her patrons about the quantity drunk, and then originated the saving-for the man told her that hereafter she had better "mind her P's and Q's,"-and hence it passed into a saving.

Mact.—The Persian worshippers of fire, founded by Zoroaster, who dourished 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. See Zoroaster.

Man or Bag .- It comes from the Greek word matter, a fleece or woo'; 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.

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

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. Its original name is Whittentide, the time of choosing the wits or wisemen to the wittenngemotte. It was consecrated to Hertha, the goddess of peace and fertility; and no quarrels might be maintained, no blood shed, during this truce of the goddess Each village, in the absence of the baron at the assembly of the nations, enjoyed a kind of saturnalia. The vassals met upon the common green around the Maypoles, where they erected a village lord, or king, as he was called, who chose his queen. He wore an oaken, and she a hawthorn wreath; and together they gave laws to the rustic sports during these sweet days of freedom. The May pole was then the English tree of liberty.

A TEXAS SHAT.-"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. The editor never wore a shirt in his life, and he thought it was a banner for the temperance procession which was to come off the next week. Se he made a little speech of thanks in jesty was very fond of; he therefore ordered inquiry to be palsied, it should never be trailed in the dust—never." The made among the assistant cooks, if any of them could make ladies did nt understand him; and when he talked about its

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 cont. and wrote four columns of explanation for his paper. The shirt is much admired by the boys of the town, and whenever the editor goes out for a walk they follow him in regiments, studying the history of Texas and the fine arts off the back of it."

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 lecome the subject of the experiments. The experimenters thus sum up the results of their observations :- " It is not difficult to say what would be excess for him, but it is not easy to decide what would be moderation; it is only certain that it would be something under two fluid ounces of absolute alcohol in twenty-four hours. It will be seen that the general result of our experiments is to confirm the opinions held by physicians as to what must be the indications of alcohol, both in health and disease. The effects on appetite and on circulation are the practical points to seize; and, if we are correct in our inferences, the commencement of narcotism marks the point when both appetite and circulation will begin to be damaged. As to the metamorphosis of nitrogenous tissues or to animal heat, it seems improbable that alcohol in quantities that can be properly used in diet has any effect; it appears to us unlikely (in the face of the chemical results) that it can enable the body to perform more work on less food, though by quickening a failing heart it may enable work to be done which otherwise could not be so. It may then act like the spurin he side of a horse, eliciting force though not supplying it."

Consumption Suffer 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 snuffried couple. In the forest of Shipton, a few miles north of 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. However, the facts, as given by Dr. Murray, are curious, and will interest the general reader. He remarks, in the first place, that The Manseillai E Hyms -When the Prussians and Aus- an habitual smoker seldom or never dies of consumption; and further declares that he has seen the progress of consumption arrested by practising the habit of snuff-taking, which is equally efficient in the case of bronchitis. Dr. Murray says-" By titillating the lining membrane of the nostrils, snuff acts as a powerful derivative and counter-irritant, and its use will tend to preserve the more important and susceptible pulmonary mucous membrane from evil. The sneezing which succeeds the unaccustomed application of the errhine, or agitates even an old and seasoned nose, when a new titilant is tried, and the cough which is induced when, by chance, some of the lighter particles get into the throat, may be of some avail in effecting the elimination of albumenoid matter (the precursor of turberele) from the lungs, ere it has had time to fill the air cells and minute bronchi, and congulate, in like manner, as sea-sickness is believed to do. The majority of medical men, when recovering from a common cold, will take a pinch in order to " speed the going guest." If good to expedite the departure of a cold I have no hesitation in affirming that it will be better still, as an expedient in altogether preventing the catarrh, e.g. if when on a journey you experience a succession of chills, in due time you may expect an attack of bronchitis, an infiltration of pneumonic, or tubercular plasma, or illness in some other form, each tending to reduce the powers of life, and consequently liable to set up consumption in those predisposed. If a snuffer, you relieve the discomfort by having recourse to your box, from which, after gently tapping, you proceed to take a pinch of the agreeable and, in this case, useful stimulant. It is said that in France, where tobacco is grown under State supervision, and manufactured by Government in nearly equal proportions, into tobacco, cigars, and snuff, the health of the ouvriers has been made the subject of official report, of which the following summary may not inaptly be given here :- The workmen in tobacco factories of the State do not suffer from any disease which the tobacco could be imagined to occasion. On the contrary, the employes MAYPOLES AND GARLANDS.-It was a custom among the seem to have had an immunity from typhus fever, as at Lyons; more than fifteen hundred years, there is not a speck of rust ancient Britons, before they were converted to Christianity, to from dysentery, as at Morlaix; from miliary fever, as at Tonneins; and from cholera everywhere. The majority of physicians to the State factories believe employment among tobacco to be instrumental in preventing consumption in the lungs, and may even restore consumptives to health."

> 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.

		9 A. M.	l P. M.	6 P. M.
We'nsday,	Aug. 24	67 0	770	750
Thursday,	ti 25	740	81 °	750
Friday,	a. 26	600	670	630
Siturday,	11 27	610	63.5	660
Sinday,		68 >	760	GSO
Monday,	" 29	640	730	730
Taesday,	" 30	660	720	690
	·	Max.	Min.	MEAN.
We'nsday,	Aug. 24	730	540	660
Thursday,	ti 25	810	6.10	740
Friday,	# 26	670	500	58℃ 5
Saturday,	" 27	700	440	570
Sunday,	· # 28	770	490	63 0
Monday,	u 29	750	580	6605
Tuesday,	" 30	740	560	630

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

And the second second		3 A, M.	it.a.	O 1. M.
We'neday,	Aug. 24	30.20	30.16	30.10
Thursday,			29.85	29.80
Friday,	" 26	30.30	30.34 (5	.:::30.39
Saturday,	6 27	30,50	30.48	30.36
Sunday,	. 28	30.25	30.20	30.05
Monday,	4 29	30,00		29 84
Tuesday,	. 30	29,93	29.98	30.04