

NOTES AND QUERIES

QUESTIONS

103. FRENCH FORT AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN.—Was there ever such a fort? By what author is one mentioned? On what map is such a fortification recorded?

BUTLER.

104. PORTRAIT DE NICOT.—Pourrait-on me dire s'il existe un portrait, une gravure, une estampe de Jean Nicot, ambassadeur de France en Portugal, de 1559 à 1561, l'importateur du tabac en Europe?

NICOTIN.

105. SISTER ST. HENRY.—Who was Sister St. Henry, of the Order of Ursulines, who died at Brinley Place, Roxbury, Mass., "from the effects of the excitement when the convent on Mt. Benedict was burned by a brutal mob"? Was she a Canadian?

C.

106. FIRST USE OF WOOD PULP IN PAPER MANUFACTURE.—I read the following information in the *New York Magazine of September 16, 1795*: "A very interesting discovery has lately been made in the State of Pennsylvania, in the art of paper making, by a Mr. Biddis. It is likely to reduce the price of that important article, by producing a saving of rags. The invention consists in reducing saw dust to a pulp, mixing it with the pulp of rags, and forming the paper from this mixture. We have seen a specimen of paper made in this manner, certified to be composed of one fourth of saw dust, the remainder of rags. The body and the surface of the paper appear as good as usual; colour verges towards a greenish yellow, which we think could be effectually remedied by indigo. We understand that in a paper of a coarser kind, a great proportion of saw dust may be used, even in some as far as three fourths. Mr. Biddis has erected a mill upon the principle of his invention, and taken out a patent, a right to which he proposes selling to one person in each of the States. The saw dust of all our woods may be used for manufacture though some are preferable to others."—Was this the first use of wood pulp in paper manufacture in America, and was it then in use in Europe?

W. K.