

VARIOUS

NOTES AND QUERIES,
NUMBER 75, APRIL 5,
1851

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Various Notes and Queries, Number 75, April 5, 1851 / A Medium of Inter-communication for Literary Men, Artists, Antiquaries, Genealogists, etc

Notes

TWO CHANCELLORS

Although neither your readers nor I are politicians enough to interfere in the changes proposed with reference to the office of Lord Chancellor, I doubt not that some of them, now the subject is on the *tapis*, may feel interested in a fact connected with it, which our ancient records disclose: namely, that on one occasion there were *two chancellors* acting at the same time for several months together, and both regularly appointed by the king.

It is an unique instance, occurring in the reign of Edward IV.: the two chancellors being Thomas Rotheram, Bishop of Lincoln, and John Alcock, Bishop of Rochester. The former received the Great Seal in May, 1474, in the fourteenth year of the reign, and without any doubt continued chancellor till the king's death; and yet, from April to September in the following year, the latter was also addressed by the same title. During that interval of five months, there are numerous writs of Privy Seal addressed by the king to both, in which each of them is styled "our chancellor."

This curious circumstance may be thus accounted for. King Edward had for some time been contemplating an invasion of France; and when his preparations were completed (about April), as he required his chancellor, Bishop Rotheram, to attend him on the expedition, it became necessary to provide some competent person to transact the business of the Chancery in his absence. On previous occasions of this nature, it had been usual to place the seal that was used in England, when the king was abroad, in the hands of the Master of the Rolls, or some other master in Chancery, with the title of Keeper: but, for some unexplained reason (perhaps because Bishop Alcock was a man whom the king delighted to honour), this prelate was dignified with the superior designation, although Bishop Rotheram still retained it. The voyage being delayed from April to July, during the whole of that period, each being in England, both acted in the same character; Privy Seals, as I have said, being sent to both, and bills in Chancery being addressed also to Bishop Alcock as chancellor. Rotheram was with the king in France as his chancellor, and is so described on opening the negotiation in August, which led to the discreditable peace by which Edward made himself a pensioner to the French king. No Privy Seals were addressed to Alcock after September 28; which may therefore be considered the close of this double chancellorship, and the date of Bishop Rotheram's return to England.

Who knows whether the discovery of this ancient authority may not suggest to our legislators the division of the title between two possessors with distinct duties, in the same manner that two chief justices were substituted in the reign of Henry III. for one chief justiciary?

The immediate interest of this fact has prompted me to anticipate its appearance in the volumes of my work, which you have been kind enough to announce as being in the press.

Edward Foss.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF CHAUCER, NO. III

"Now flieth Venus in to Ciclinius tour.

* * * * *

"Alas, and there hath she no socour,
For she ne found ne sey no maner wight.

* * * * *

"Wherefore her selven for to hide and save,
Within the gate she fledde in to a cave.

* * * * *

"Now God helpe sely Venus alone,
But as God wold it happed for to be,
That while the weping Venus made her mone,
Ciclinius riding in his chirachee,
Fro Venus Valanus might this palais see;
And Venus he salveth and maketh chere,
And her receiveth as his frende full dere."

Complaint of Mars and Venus.

Having in my last communication (Vol. iii., p. 235.) shown cause for the alteration in the foregoing quotation of Ciclinius into Cyllenius, I shall now endeavour to interpret the line in Italics, which in its present shape is utterly without meaning.

Whatever word *Valanus* may be supposed to represent, whether a proper or a common name, still the construction of the whole line is evidently corrupt.

Taking Valanus, in the first place, as a proper name, the most probable original would be Valens; for the connexion of which with Mercury we must refer to Cicero (*De Nat. Deor.* iii. 22.), where mention is made of it in these words:—

"Alter (Mercurius) *Valentis* et Phoronidis filius, is qui sub terris habetur idem Trophonius."

Here the identification with Trophonius strikes us at once as affording a clue to THE CAVE into which Venus fled, giving great probability to Valens as the true solution of Chaucer's meaning.

But if we receive it as such, the following hypothesis becomes necessary, viz., that Chaucer imagined a *double impersonation* of Mercury—one absent, the other present,—one sidereal, the other mythological,—one Cyllenius, the other Valens.

When Venus first enters Mercury's "palais," she "*ne found ne sey no maner wight.*" This signifies the absence from home of *Cyllenius*, who was abroad upon "his chirachee" in attendance upon the Sun; and here again is an instance of the nice astronomical accuracy of Chaucer. It was impossible that the *planet* Mercury could be in the sign Gemini, because his greatest elongation, or apparent distance from the sun, does not exceed 29 degrees; so that the Sun having but just entered Taurus, Mercury could not be in Gemini. Neither could Venus see Valens (the other impersonation of Mercury), because of his concealment in the cave; but when she entered the cave, then she was welcomed and received by him.

Now, to render the text conformable with this interpretation, some alteration in the construction is necessary, as indeed it must be in any attempt to render the passage intelligible.

Taking, away the word "Fro," and transposing "might" to the other side of "Valanus," the lines would stand thus,—

"– it happed for to be
That, while the weping Venus made her mone,
(Cyllenius riding in his chirachee)
Venus might Valens in this palais see;
And Venus he salveth and maketh chere
And her receiveth as his frende full dere!"

On the other supposition of "Valanus" being a common name, to which a capital letter has been prefixed in mistake, then the only word for which it would appear to be a probable substitution would be "Vallum," in the sense of a border or rampart; but the application would be so far-fetched that I shall not attempt it, especially as I look upon the explanation afforded by "Valens" as most probably the true one.

A. E. B.

Leeds, March 20. 1851.

FOLK LORE

Cure of Hooping Cough.—There is a superstition in Cheshire that hooping cough may be cured by holding a toad for a few moments with its head within the mouth of the person affected. I heard only the other day of a cure by this somewhat disagreeable process; the toad was said to have caught the disease, which in this instance proved fatal to it in a few hours.

A. H. H.

Charms from Devonshire.—The following charms were obtained from an old woman in this parish, though probably they are all known to you already:

(a.) *For a Scald or Burn.*

"There were three angels came from The East and West,
One brought fire and another brought frost,
And the third it was the Holy Ghost.
Out fire, in frost, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Ghost. Amen."

(b.) *For a Sprain.*

"As our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was riding into Jerusalem, His horse tripped and sprained his leg. Our Blessed Lord and Saviour blessed it, and said,

'Bone to bone, and vein to vein,
O vein, turn to thy rest again!'

M. N. so shall thine, in the Name," &c.

(c.) *For stopping Blood.*

"Our Blessed Saviour was born in Bethlehem and baptized in the river Jordan.

'The Waters were wild and rude.
The child Jesus was meek, mild, and good.'

He put His foot into the waters, and the waters stopped, and so shall thy blood, in the Name," &c.

(d.) *For the Tooth-ache.*

"All glory! all glory! all glory! be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

"As our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was walking in the garden of Gethsamene, He saw Peter weeping. He called him unto Him, and said, Peter why, weapest thou? Peter answered and said, Lord, I am grievously tormented with pain, the pain of my tooth. Our Lord answered and said, If thou wilt believe in Me, and

My words abide with thee, thou shalt never feel any more pain in thy tooth. Peter said, Lord, I believe, help Thou my unbelief. In the Name, &c.

"God grant M. N. ease from the pain in his teeth."

(e.) *For Fits.*—Go into a church at midnight and walk three times round the communion table. This was done in this parish a few years since.

(f.) An inhabitant of this parish told me that his father went into Lydford Church, at twelve o'clock at night, and cut off some lead from every diamond pane in the windows with which he made a heart, to be worn by his wife afflicted with "*breastills*," i.e. *sore breasts*.

(g.) The skin cast by a snake is very useful in extracting thorns, &c. from the body, but, unlike I other remedies, it is repellent, not attractive; hence it must always be applied on the opposite side to that on which the thorn entered. In some cases where the skin has been applied on the same side, it has forced the thorn completely through the hand.

Lent Lilies.—*Oak Webs, &c.*—In this part of Cornwall, the native yellow narcissus, known in most counties, and in the books, as *daffodils* (the "Daffy Down Dilly" of your correspondent, Vol. iii. p. 220.), are called only by the name of *Lent lilies*, or simply *Lents*, and are commonly sold by the poor children, frequently in exchange for *pins*. The pleasing name reminds one of Michaelmas Daisy (*Chrysanthemum*), Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*), and the beautiful pasque flower (*Anemone pulsatilla*).

The common beetle called cockchafer is here known only as the *oak-web*, and a smaller beetle as *fern-web*. It seems hard to guess why they should be named *web* (which in Anglo-Saxon means *weaver*), as they do not, I think, form any cocoon.

H. G. T.

Launceston.

THE THRENODIA CAROLINA OF SIR THO. HERBERT

The *Threnodia Carolina* of sir Thomas Herbert is a jewel of historical composition, and I am persuaded that a new edition of it, if formed on a collation of the best manuscripts, and illustrated by extracts from the principal historians of the same period, would not only be received by the public with thanks, but with expressions of surprise that so rare a treasure should have been suffered to remain in such comparative obscurity.

There are four manuscripts of the work in public libraries, two of which I am enabled to describe.

1. The Harleian Ms. in the British Museum, No. 7396.

This Ms. is in folio. The preliminary leaves have the notes marked 1, 2, 3—the second being in the handwriting of sir William Dugdale. The narrative occupies thirty-six pages, with interlinear corrections and additions. This Ms. does not contain the words *This brief narrative*, &c. nor the letter dated the 3d Nov. 1681.

"THRENODIA CAROLINA."

(1) "This book contains S^r Tho. Herberts memoirs being the original in his own hand sent to S^r W^m Dugdale in 1678."

(2) "A true and perfect narrative of the most remarkable passages relating to king Charles the first of blessed memory, written by the proper land of S^r Thomas Herbert baronet, who attended upon his ma^{tie} from Newcastle upon Tine, when he was sold by the Scotts, during the whole time of his greatest afflictions, till his death and buriall; w^{ch} was sent to me S^r Will^m Dugdale knight, garter principall king of armes, in Michaellmasse Terme a^o. 1678, by the said S^r Thomas Herbert, from Yorke, where he resideth."

"VERITAS ODIUM PARIT."

(3) "Court passages in the two last yeares of the raigne of king Charles the first, during y^e time of his affliction."

2. The Harleian Ms. in the British Museum, No. 4705.

This Ms. is in small folio. It was formerly in the possession of Peter le Neve, norroy. A preliminary leaf has the subjoined attestation by sir William Dugdale. The narrative is much more ample and circumstantial than in the former Ms., but it is not all in the handwriting of sir Thomas Herbert. The letter dated 3 November 1681, and the relations of Huntington, Cooke, and Firebrace, are added in the handwriting of Dugdale; also, the names of persons who corresponded with Charles I. while he was a prisoner in the Isle of Wight. The passages transcribed by the Rev. Alfred Gatty appear in this Ms.—also in the edition of 1702. The edition of 1813 is a *verbatim* reprint of the first and second articles of that of 1702. It was edited by Mr. George Nicol.

"CAROLINA THRENODIA."

"This booke containeth a large answer to a short letter sent by S^r Will^m Dugdale kn^t (garter; principall king of armes) unto S^r Thomas Herbert baronet, residing in the city of Yorke. By w^{ch} letter he did desire the sayd S^r Thomas Herbert to informe him of such materiall passages, as he had observed touching the late king Charles the first (of blessed memory) during the time that he the sayd S^r Thomas did attend him in person; B^t for the two last yeares of his afflicted life."

The other Mss. alluded to are preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford. The most important is No. 1141., which is minutely described in the admirable catalogue compiled by Mr. Black. A transcript of the *Threnodia Carolina* by Ant. à Wood, also in the Ashmolean Museum, is recorded by Huddesford.

As there were two *recensions* of the narrative, I have added a specimen of each of the Harleian Mss., which may serve as a clue to the nature of other copies, whether in public libraries, or in private hands.

"The Lords ordered a girdle or circumscription of Capitall Letters to be cutt in Lead and putt about the Coffin. being onely these wordes

King Charles

1648

The kings body was then brought from the chamber to Saint Georges hall. whence after a Little pause, it was wth a slow pase & much sorrow carrye'd by those gentlemen that were in mourning: the Lords in blacks following the royall Corpes & many gentlemen after them, and their attendants."—*Threnodia Carolina*, p. 36. Harleian MS. 7396.

"The girdle or circumscription of Capitall Letters in Lead putt about the Coffin had onely these words.

King-Charles

1648

The Kings body was then brought from his Bed-chamber, downe into S^t Georges-hall; whence after a little stay, itt was with a slow and solemn pace (much sorrow in most faces discernable) carryed by gentlemen that were of some quallity and in mourning. the Lords in like habitts followed the Royall Corpes. the Governor, and severall gentlemen, and officers, and attendants came after."—*Carolina Threnodia*, p. 80. Harleian MS. 4705.

Bolton Corney.

Sir Thomas Herbert's Memoirs of Charles I.—The question suggested by Mr. Gatty's first note upon this subject was one of some importance, viz., whether the original MS. in the possession of his friend contained anything of Sir Thomas Herbert's not hitherto published? There is no doubt that the "Memoir of the two last years of King Charles I." was written by Sir Thomas Herbert, after his retirement to his native city of York, at the request of the author of the *Athenæ Oxonienses*, who made use of nearly the whole of it in compiling that great work, adapting different portions to his biographical notices of the persons to whom they principally related. The notices of Colonel Joyce and Colonel Cobbet are chiefly composed of extracts from Herbert's Memoir; whilst under the name of Herbert himself not more than about one-third of his own communication will be found.

The first edition of the *Athenæ* was not published until 1691, several years after Sir Thomas Herbert's death; and the memoir in a complete form, with the title of *Threnodia Carolina*, did not appear until the year 1702, when it was published by Dr. Charles Goodall, physician to the Charter House, together with other tracts relating to Charles I. This is doubtless the volume described by Mr. Bolton Corney (vol. iii., p. 157.), who will, I hope, favour your readers with the information requested by Mr. Gatty (p. 222.).

The Memoir, as published in 1813 by G. and W. Nicol, Booksellers, Pall Mall, professes to be a faithful reprint of the former edition of 1702. The commencing and concluding paragraphs in this reprint are precisely the same as those transcribed by Mr. Gatty's friend from the MS. in his possession. His idea, that an incorrect copy of his MS. was improperly obtained, and published in 1813, seems to be without foundation.

Δ.

Minor Notes

Shakspeare's Venus and Adonis.—The following extract from an advertisement in the *St. James's Chronicle*, April 15, 1779, is worth a note as illustrative of the altered value of the book referred to:—

"If any person is possessed of an impression of Shakspeare's *Venus and Adonis*, 4to. Printed by Richard Field for John Harrison, 1593, and will bring it to Mr. Thomas Longman, bookseller, in Paternoster Row, he will receive one guinea for it."

Malone gave 25*l.* for the copy in his collection in the Bodleian.

J. F. M.

Moorfields in Charles II.'s Time.—I copy this from *The New Help to Discourse*, published about 1670:

"Two gentlemen of Stepney going homewards over Moor-fields, about twelve of the clock at night, were staid by an impertinent constable with many frivolous questions, more by half to show his office than his wit; one whereof was, If they were not afraid to go home at that time of the night? They answered, 'No.' 'Well,' said he, 'I shall let you pass at this time; but if you should be knockt on the lead before you get home, you cannot but report that there was a good watch kept in Moor-fields.'
Blowen.

Yankee, Derivation of.—The word *Yankee* is nothing more than the word *English* so transformed by the imperfect pronunciation of the natives of Massachusetts—*Yenghis, Yanghis, Yankies*. The orthography of this much-used epithet, which is not given, we believe, in any English or American work, was communicated to M. Philarète Charles by one of the best-informed men of that province.

"Le mot Yankee, appliqué aujourd'hui comme sobriquet aux populations agricoles et commerçantes du nord, n'est autre que le mot *English* transformé par la prononciation défectueuse des indigènes du Massachusetts: *Yenghis, Yanghis, Yankies*. Nous tenons de l'un des hommes les plus instruit de la province cette curieuse étymologie, que ne donne aucun ouvrage américain ou anglais. Les Anglais, quand ils se moquent des *Yankies*, se moquent d'eux-mêmes."—Philarète Charles, "Les Américains," in *Revue des Deux Mondes*, May 15, 1850.

J. M.

A Word to Literary Men (Vol. iii., p. 161.).—Perhaps Mr. Kenneth R. H. Mackenzie will allow me to add the following as a *rider* to his suggestion:—

"Even after all the labours of the Prussian scholars," says Dr. Arnold, "much remains to be done towards obtaining a complete knowledge of the number, and still more of the value, of the Greek MSS. now existing in Europe. It is not easy to know how many MSS. of any given writer are extant, where they are to be found, and, above all, whether from their age and character they are worth the trouble of an exact collation. A labour of this kind cannot be accomplished by individuals; but the present spirit of liberal co-operation, which seems to influence literary as well as scientific men throughout Europe, renders its accomplishment by the combined exertions of the scholars of different countries by no means impracticable. It would be exceedingly convenient to possess an alphabetical list of all the extant Greek and Latin writers, with a *catalogue raisonnée* of the MSS. of each; and if such a work

were attempted, there is little doubt, I imagine, that in point of number a very large addition would be made to the stock of MSS. already known. What the result might be in point of value is another question; still it is desirable to know what we have to trust to; and when we have obtained a right estimate of our existing resources in manuscripts, we shall then be better able to judge what modern criticism will have to do from its own means towards bringing the text of the ancient writers to the greatest possible state of perfection."—Preface to *Thucydides*

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