

"ÇA VA SANS DIRE."—It has become a disgusting euphemism of the periodical press to translate this phrase literally, and so to give a restricted currency to an expression which is not, and never can be, English. As I understand the French phrase, it carries two meanings; for one of which we say, "That is a matter of course," and for the other, "That may be taken for granted." Are not these equivalents sufficient for our needs?

C. M. I.

Queries.

We must request correspondents desiring information on family matters of only private interest, to affix their names and addresses to their queries, in order that the answers may be addressed to them direct.

WHOLE-FOOTED.—In Roger North's 'Life of the Hon. and Rev. Dr. John North, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge' (ed. 1742, p. 278), the following expression occurs:—"His chief Remissions were when some of his nearest Relations were with him, or he with them, and then, as they say, he was *whole-footed*; but this was not often, nor long together." In Forby's 'Vocabulary of East Anglia' *whole-footed* is defined as "very intimate, closely confederate"; but in the passage above quoted it seems to convey the idea of being perfectly at ease, free from restraint, unembarrassed. I should be glad to know if there are any other instances of the word in this sense.

W. ALDIS WRIGHT.

PARISH REGISTERS OF ST. JOHN'S, OUSEBRIDGE END, YORK.—Four years ago, when searching these registers, one of the books, No. 4, containing the records from 1685 to 1740, was declared to be "missing." A recent inquiry elicits the statement that it is "lost." Can any of your correspondents throw light upon its fate or present whereabouts? The parish is an important one, in the heart of the city of York, and I think every effort should be made to restore, if possible, the book to its proper place.

H. D. E.

TRANSLATION OF GALLAND'S 'ARABIAN NIGHTS.'—Would one of your learned readers be good enough to inform me when, where, and by whom the first English translation of Galland's 'Arabian Nights' was published? My friends and I have vainly turned over some hundred volumes, and have found no enlightenment in the University Library, Glasgow; the Bodleian, or the British Museum.

R. F. B.

"DEUX OREILLES."—Sir Walter Scott, in 'Waverley,' chap. x., speaks of "vinum primæ notæ," thus: "C'est des deux oreilles." What is referred to? We all know the proverb, "A hungry belly has no ears," or "Ventre affamé n'a point d'oreilles," so that *two ears* may refer to an

overgorged appetite; but I am inclined to think the solution is less far to seek. Can any correspondent offer a plausible solution of the phrase?

E. COBHAM BREWER.

YORK MINSTER.—Can any of your readers give me information about the figure of a man with a violin in his hand, which is now in the crypt at York Minster, but which originally stood, I believe, on a niche outside?

ISATIS.

TO PELHAMIZE.—In the recently published 'Home Letters of the Earl of Beaconsfield in 1830 and 1831' the following passage occurs (p. 32):—"Fleuriz, the Governor of Cadiz, is a singular brute. When we meet I will tell you how I *Pelhamized* him." What is the meaning of this expression?

FREDERICK E. SAWYER, F.S.A.

Brighton.

[A reference to Bulwer's 'Pelham,' then not long published, is apparently intended.]

SCOTCH PEERS.—It has been stated that Queen Anne created several Scotch peers *English* peers, and that the House of Lords refused to receive them, considering such creations an infraction of the agreement in the union between Scotland and England. Can any of your correspondents state the facts and dates?

H. LESLIE.

Albury Park, Surrey.

HAD LEGENDARY ANIMALS A REAL EXISTENCE?

—I have seen somewhere an account of the vestiges of birds of great size which formerly existed in the Isle of Madagascar, and are supposed to have been the origin of the Arab legend of the roc (as in 'Sindbad the Sailor,' &c.). I cannot now "verify the quotation."

2. Has the question whether the traditions of primitive man about the pterodactyle caused the dragon legends common in Europe and Asia been yet thoroughly investigated? There were, without doubt, large flying lizards common in Europe in the mesozoic period. Has their possible connexion with dragon legends ever been cleared up?

3. In England and Scotland there are also traditions (tolerably lucid and detailed) of large reptiles of now extinct species being destroyed by man in historic periods, *e. g.*, the "Somerville Worm" of Lynton, killed by Sir John Somerville. Geology proves that huge reptiles existed in England, *e. g.*, the ichthyosaurs, the cetiosaur, the megalosaurs, &c. Has the possible connexion of the real with the traditional reptiles ever been investigated?

W. S. LACH-SZYRMA.

SEAL.—Can any one give me the origin of a seal which I possess? I believe it to be the badge of some club of the last century. The shield con-