

able milliner's. We may add to the above that the sole descendant of the beautiful Aissé, who was asked in marriage by the Prince de Condé, earns a pitiful living at Chaillot."

ABHBA.

Pulci, Morgante Maggiore.—In this poem, one of the numerous epics or quasi-epics on the subject of Charlemagne's Paladins, the author (Canto xx., beginning at Stanza 45), disposes of his hero, the Giant Morgante, in a more unique and unexpected manner, but apparently without intending any burlesque. The Giant, after disposing of a whale which had threatened the vessel with destruction, is attacked on the sea by a *little* lobster or crayfish, "Granchiolono," which bites his heel and causes death. Well may the author exclaim in Stanza 56.,

"O vita nostra debole e fallace."

J. C. BARNHAM.

Norwich.

"*Peck of March dust.*"—I imagine the proverb, "a peck of March dust is worth a king's ransom," is very generally known. This year, so far as we have yet seen the "peck of dust," and consequent value, will not be bestowed on us; still it may not be uninteresting to some of your readers to hear the true meaning of the proverb.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* (vol. xxiii. p. 167.) the reasons are given for the verity of the proverb, and we are also told the value of the "king's ransom." The word "ransom," the writer says, in the proverb, is not synonymous with our common acceptance of the word, but is to be understood in the following sense:—

The laws of the Anglo-Saxons held that when any person was killed by another, a payment in money by way of compensation was to be allowed; the sum being proportionate to the position in life which the deceased held; this sum was called "Wergild," and varied from 200s., a "Churl's Wergild" to 7200s., or 120*l.* (60s. to a pound), a "King's Wergild."

The proverb, therefore, means that "the peck of dust" in this month is worth "as much as was paid for the redemption of a man's life on occasion of the killing of a king, which was the highest mulct our ancestors knew of, and which indeed in those days amounted to a very great sum."

The reason why a dry March is so desirable is, as of course your readers know, that it is difficult to get in the seed-corn unless we have dry and fine weather after February, a month proverbially wet.

J. B. S.

Woodhayne.

A rare English Word.—In John Hall's interesting little book, *Horæ Vacivæ*, 1646, occurs this passage (p. 149.):—

"Tick-tack sets a man's intentions on their guard: errors in this *andwear* can be but once amended."

Who can quote another passage from any author containing this word? I have hunted after it in many dictionaries without avail. It means I suppose *antagonism* or *contest*, and resembles in form many Anglo-Saxon words, which never found their way into English proper. Perhaps nearly the only vestige of the prefix is the *an* in *answer*, from Anglo-Sax., and *Suara*, signifying probably a word *on* or *from* the other side. LETHREDIENSIS.

Queries.

TRANSLATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

E. W. has an imperfect copy of what he thinks is Tyndale's *Translation of the New Testament*, and will feel much obliged to any reader of "N. & Q." who will point out some peculiarity by which he may be enabled to identify the edition. The title-page is unfortunately lost, but the Calendar, which appears to have immediately followed it, is perfect. The text is printed in black-letter, in 16mo., and commencing with the signature A 1, goes on to e c 7, where the fragment ends, with the words "Here endeth the Actes of the Apostles," after which follows the catch-word *The*. Besides the initial letters there are forty-seven small and very poor wood-cuts inserted in the page, throughout the Gospels, but some of these are several times repeated; there is also a small cut of St. Luke at the beginning of the Acts. The marginal references are but few; but here and there we meet with a word or two printed in the Italian letter, referring to the subject in the text over against which they are placed, as *Sweare*, *Righte-cheke*, *Sparowes*, *Tabitha*, &c.; the portions appointed to be read for the gospel of the day are also marked in the margin, but in black-letter. On the inner margins are Italic capitals, from A to G, dividing the chapters into tolerably equal parts. But perhaps the easiest way to identify the edition will be to mention the first and last line of some particular page, say sig. n 2, where they are:—

"is able to put one cubit vnto his stature?"

"is in thine own eye, ypoerite, first cast out;"

this page consists of thirty-four lines without the heading.

E. W. has also a 12mo. Bible, which is lettered on the back as Canne's Bible. It has an engraved title-page both to the Old and New Testaments, on which it is said the work was printed in 1664, but without the name of the printer, or that of the place where it was printed; it has "Marginal Notes shewing the Scriptures to be the best interpreters of Scripture;" and at the end "The Whole Book of Psalms, collected into English Meeter, by Thomas Sternhold, John Hopkins, W. Whittingham, and others." Same date, but