of the bishop of Rome, who alone in the Western Church retains the name of pope, includes the old Roman titles of *pontifex maximus* and *paler patriae,* and always in his signatures the proudly humble phrase “slave of the slaves of God ” (servus *servorum Dei),* based on Matt. xx. 27 (see Pope). Of ecclesiasti­cal titles those expressing orders and no more—priest, deacon, sub-deacon and the rest—arc never honorary (Prester John, *q.v.,* is a shadowy medieval exception). Those expressing office, whether in the Church at large (patriarch, archbishop, &c.), or in the papal court (*e.g.* protonotary), are often merely honorary. That of bishop even became for a time, after the Reformation, a title borne by certain secular princes (see Bishop). “ Cardinal,” which with the predicate Eminence *(q.v.)* is now reserved for the princes of the Roman Church, was at one time the honorary style of the chief clergy of great cathedrals generally (see Cardinal). “ Abbot,” the official title of the head of the monastery, has also in several languages (e.g. the French *abbê)* come to be used as a purely honorary title (see Abbot). For the honorary styles of the clergy in the English- speaking countries, see the articles Reverend, Vicar, Rector, Canon, Dean. As for the archdeacon, it is only in the Church of England that he can be still defined as “ one who performs archidiaconal functions”; elsewhere, if he exists at all, he is purely titular (see Archdeacon).

Among titles of honour, finally, may be reckoned honorary degrees bestowed by universities, the pope, and in England by the archhishop of Canterbury. Any degree may be bestowed *honoris causa.* The universities of Oxford and Cambridge thus regularly bestow the degree of D.D. (doctor of divinity) on those of their *alumni* who become bishops. It is also the custom to bestow honorary degrees at the yearly “ Commemora­tion ” (generally D.C.L., doctor of civil law, at Oxford ; LL.D., doctor of laws, at Cambridge) on a selected list of eminent personages. The right of the archbishop of Canterbury to confer degrees *honoris causa,* known as “ Lambeth degrees,” is sup­posed to be derived from one of his powers as *legatus nalus* of the pope, which survived the Reformation. An attempt was made by some of the Swiss reformers of the 16th century to abolish degrees. They were certainly “ popish ” in their origin, and others besides Herbert Spencer have objected to them as misleading, since they are by no means necessarily a hall-mark of learning. They tend, however, to multiply rather than to decrease in number, and in England some criticism has been aroused by the growing custom in certain quarters of assuming degrees (notably that of D.D.) granted corruptly, or for wholly insufficient reasons, by certain so-called “ universities,” notably in the United States. For a list of the degrees of the principal universities and their hoods, see Universities, *ad fin.*

The history of many peerage and other titles is outlined in the articles on historic families in this work. For British peerage titles the standard work is G. E. C. (okayne)'s *Complete Peerage* (1st ed., 8 vols., 1887; new ed., vol. i., 1910). For baronets and others see the manuals of Burke and Debrett. The standard authority for the royal houses and “ high nobility ” of Europe is the *Almanach de Gotha,* published yearly. See also the article Nobility, and for further references the authorities attached to those on individual titles, *e.g.* Count. (W. A. P.)

TITMOUSE (O. Eng. *mase* and *tytmase,* Ger. *Meise,* Swed. *mes,* Du. *mees,* Fr. *mésange),* the name@@1 long in use for several species of small English birds, which are further distinguished from one another by some characteristic appellation. These go to make up the genus *Parus* of Linnaeus, and with a large number of other genera form the Passerine family Paridae. Titmice are usually non-migratory, and the genus *Parus* occupies most of the globe except South America and the Australian region east of Lombok and Flores.

Among the more common European and English forms the first to be mentioned is that called, from its comparatively large size, the great titmouse, *P. major,* but known also in many parts as the oxeye,@@2 conspicuous by its black head, white cheeks and yellow­breast, down which runs a black line, while in spring the cock makes himself heard by a loud love-note that resembles the noise made in sharpening a saw. It is widely distributed throughout the British Islands and over nearly the whole of Europe and northern Asia. The next is the blue titmouse, bluecap or nun, *P. coeruleus,* smaller than the last and more common. Its names are so character­istic as to make any description needless. A third common species, but not so numerous as either of the foregoing, is the coal-titmouse, *P. ater,* distinguished by its black cap, white cheeks and while nape. Some interest attaches to this species because of the difference observable between the race inhabiting the scanty remnants of the ancient Scottish forests and that which occurs throughout the rest of Britain. The former is more brightly tinted than the latter, having a clear bluish-grey mantle and the lower part of the back greenish, hardly either of which colours are to be seen in the same parts of more southern examples, which last have been described as forming a distinct species, *P. britannicus.* But it is to be observed that the denizens of the old Scotch fir-woods are nearly midway in coloration between the dingy southern birds and those which prevail over the greater part of the continent of Europe. It would therefore seem unreasonable to speak of two species only: there should be either three or one, and the latter alternative is to be preferred, provided the existence of the local races be duly recognized. Much the same thing is to be noticed in the next species to be mentioned, the marsh­titmouse, *P. palustris,* which, sombre as is its plumage, is subject to considerable local variation in its very extensive range, and has been called *P. borealis* in Scandinavia, *P. alpestris* in the Alps, and *P. lugubris* in south-eastern Europe, to say nothing of forms like *P. baicalensis, P. camchatkensis* and others, whose names denote its local variations in northern Asia, while no great violence is exer­cised if to these be tacked on *P. atricapilla,* with several geographical races which inhabit North America. A fifth British species is the rare crested titmouse, *P. cristatus,* only found in limited districts in Scotland, though common enough, especially in pine-woods, in many parts of Europe.

In addition to species of *Parus,* North America possesses two peculiar genera of tits—*Psaltriparus* and *Auriparus.* During the greater part of the year the various species of the genus *Parus* associate in family parties and only break up into pairs at the beginning of the breeding season. The nests are nearly always placed in a hollow stump, and consist of a mass of moss, feathers and hair, the last being worked almost into a kind of felt. Thereon the eggs, often to the number of eight or nine, are laid, and these have a translucent white shell, freckled or spotted with rust colour. The first plumage of the young closely resembles that of the parents ; but, so far as is known, it has always a yellower tinge, very apparent on the parts, if there be such, which in the adult are white. Few­birds are more restless in disposition. Most of the European species and some of the North American become familiar, haunting the neighbourhood of houses, especially in winter, and readily availing themselves of such scraps of food, about the nature of which they are not particular, as they can get.@@3 By gardeners every titmouse is generally regarded as an enemy, for it is supposed to do infinite damage to the buds of fruit-trees and bushes; but the accusation is wholly false, for the buds destroyed are always found to be those to which a grub—the bird’s real object—has got access, so that there can be little doubt that the titmouse is a great benefactor to the horticulturist.

Akin to the genus *Parus,* but in many respects differing from it, is *Acredula,* containing that curious-looking bird the long-tailed or bottle titmouse, with many local races or species. The bird itself, having its tail longer than its body, is unlike any other found in the northern hemisphere, while its nest is a perfect marvel of construc­tion, being in shape nearly oval, with a small hole in one side. The exterior is studded with pieces of lichen, worked into a firm texture of moss, wool and spiders’ nests, and the inside is profusely lined with soft feathers—2379 having been, says Macgillvray, counted in one example. Not inferior in beauty or ingenuity is the nest built by the penduline titmouse, *Aegithalus pendulinus,* of the south of Europe, which differs, however, not merely in composition, but in being suspended to a bough, while the former is nearly always placed between two or more branches.

The so-called bearded titmouse, *Panurus biarmicus,* has habits wholly unlike those of any of the foregoing, and is now placed in

@@@1 The prefix “ tit ” by heedless writers often used alone, though equally proper to the titlark (see Pipit), is perhaps cognate with the Greek τιτίs, which originally meant a small chirping bird *{Ann. Nat. Hist.,* 4th series, vol. x. p. 227), and has a diminutive form in the Icelandic *Titlingur—*the English or at least Scottish *titling.* It is by false analogy that the plural of titmouse is made titmice; it should be titmouses. A nickname is very often added, as with many other familiar English birds, and in this case it is “ tom.”

@@@2 The signification of this name is obscure. It may perhaps be correlated with a Swedish name for the bird—*Talgoxe.*

@@@3 Persons fond of watching the habits of birds may with little trouble provide a pleasing spectacle by adopting the plan, practised by the late A. E. Knox, of hanging a lump of suet or tallow by a short string to the end of a flexible rod stuck aslant into the ground close to the window of a sitting-room. It is seldom long before a titmouse of some kind finds the dainty, and once found visits are made to it until every morsel is picked off. The attitudes of the birds as they cling to the swinging lure are very diverting, and none but a titmouse can succeed in keeping a foothold upon it.