

a resolution of Congress passed at Philadelphia February 1, 1776. It is, I presume, one of the third issue, each of some millions of dollar bills, and I should imagine that a large number must still be in existence. This bill is printed from type and wood blocks; the earlier from engraved plates.

J. ELIOT HODGKIN.

Richmond-on-Thames.

RHINO.—I cannot find any explanation of this word, either in 'N. & Q.' or in any of my various glossaries. Where does it come from; and how did it get its present meaning? It is not a modern word; for in an account of an elopement from Bristol in 1787 the lady is said to be possessed of a large fortune "in ready rino."

J. B. WILSON.

Knightwick Rectory.

ALGERINE PASSPORTS.—An old American sailor says that he long ago saw on English ships vellum passports, that were carried as a safe-conduct when meeting Algerine corsairs. What manner of documents were these; and when did they cease to be issued?

JAMES D. BUTLER.

Madison, Wis., U.S.

POEM WANTED.—Where can I find an early poem of Mrs. Browning's beginning—

O maiden, heir of kings,
A king has left his place!

Also a patriotic song of Tennyson's, sung not long ago at a colonial dinner, in which the lines occur,

Pray God our greatness may not fail,
Through craven fears of being great!

And the 'Mummy,' by Roscoe?

MAC ROBERT.

St. Leonard's.

[Have you consulted Roscoe's collected poems?]

AUTHORS OF QUOTATIONS WANTED.—

Sweet music moves us and we know not why;
We feel the tears, but cannot trace the source.
Is it the language of some other state
Born of its memory? For what can wake
The soul's strong instinct of another world
Like music?

R. C.

No heart was made for loneliness or sadness, &c.

M. BARLOW.

Receipts.

TOM-CAT.

(7th S. v. 268.)

In connexion with DR. MURRAY's query and its editorial rider, the following may be of interest:—

"Arab. 'Sinnaur' (also meaning a prince). The common name is Kitt, which is pronounced Katt or Gatt; and which Ibn Dorayd pronounces a foreign word (Syriac?). Hence, despite Freitag, *catus* (which Isidore derives from *catere*, to look for) *xarra* or *Para, gatto, chat, cat*, an animal unknown to the classics of Europe, who used the *mustela* or *putorius vulgaris* and different species of *Viverra*. The Egyptians who kept the cat to

destroy vermin, especially snakes, called it *Mau, Mai, Miao* (onomatopoeic): this descendant of the *Felis Maniculata* originated in Nubia; and we know from the mummy-pits and Herodotus that it was the same in species as ours. The first portraits of the cat are on the monuments of Beni Hasan, B.C. 2500. I have ventured to derive the familiar 'Puss' from the Arab *Biss* (fem. *Bissah*), which is a congener of Pasht (Diana), the cat-faced goddess of Bubastis (Pi-Pasht), now Zagazig. Lastly, 'tabby' (brindled) cat is derived from the Attabi (Prince Attab's) quarter at Baghdad, where watered silks were made. It is usually attributed to the Tibbie, Tibalt, Tybalt, Thibert, or Tybert (who is also executioner), various forms of Theobald in the old Bear Epic; as opposed to Gilbert, the gib-cat, either a tom-cat or a gibbed (castrated) cat."—'The Thousand and One Nights,' Sir Richard Burton's translation, vol. iii. p. 149.

FRANK REDE FOWKE.

24, Victoria Grove, Chelsea.

'N. & Q.' so early as 1st S. i. 235, has noticed "the gib cat," beginning from the 'Romance of the Rose,' through the translation of "Gibbe our cat" for "Thibert le cas," with reference to "Tibert" as the cat's name in 'Reynard the Fox,' stating also that Nares satisfactorily explains it. At p. 282 there is the further statement that the "subject is exhausted in the 'Etymologicon,'" Sir G. Cornwall Lewis has a more than usually long article on 'The Ancient Names of the Cat' in 2nd S. viii. 261-3, but the names to which he refers are the still earlier ones. The dialectical variations of "cat" are noticed in some articles in vols. x. and xi. of the First Series.

ED. MARSHALL.

An editorial note at the above reference seems to imply a doubt as to whether the term *gib-cat* is synonymous with *tom-cat*. The following extract from Elisha Coles's 'English-Latin Dictionary,' fifteenth edition, 1749, seems to make it clear that it is so: "A *gib-cat, catus, felis mas*." This dictionary is often very useful in determining the meaning of obsolete and provincial terms, and as eighteen large editions of it were published between 1677 and 1772, it can hardly be very scarce, though doubtless many copies met with early destruction, the too frequent fate of school-books in constant use.

W. R. TATE.

Walpole Vicarage, Halesworth.

In Johnson's 'Dictionary,' 1805, I find:—

"*Gibcat*, an old, worn-out cat. 'I am as melancholy as a gibcat or a lugg'd bear' (Shakspeare)."

In Toone's 'Dictionary of Uncommon Words':—

"*Gibbe*, an old, worn-out animal. A gibbed cat is said, but on no certain authority, to be a he cat. Both the etymology and precise meaning of the word seem involved in obscurity. It was applied generally as a term of contempt.

For who that's but a queen, fair, sober, wise,
Would from a paddock, from a bat, a gibbe,
Such dear concernings hide.—Hamlet.

I am as melancholy as a gibbe cat.—1 K. Hen. V."

Dr. Brewer says a male cat used to be called