

years. It is written in a slovenly hand, upon old paper; and seems to have been intended for some periodical essayist, such as the *Spectator* or *Rambler*. For its quaint humour and originality, and as a specimen of the compositions so much relished in former times, it can hardly fail to be acceptable to the readers of "N. & Q."

F. C. H.

"THE AMORPHORHIN CLUB.

"*Juvenes senesque,  
Et pueri nasum rhinocerotis habent.*"—MARTIAL.

"Formed of old men, and youths, and boys,  
Where each his ugly nose enjoys.

\* Mr. Editor,

"Being one of those who walk about the town, attracting but little notice themselves, but taking great notice of others, it is not unusual with me to meet with whimsical adventures and odd encounters. I fell in with one such a few weeks ago; and send you an account of it, as likely to amuse your readers.

"I had rambled and lounged about till rather late one evening; when finding myself a good way from home, and feeling hungry, I turned into a respectable inn, and ordered supper. The landlord apologised for being unable to accommodate me with a private room, as all his smaller rooms were occupied; but promised me every attention, if I could put up with a large public room up-stairs, which however I should have to myself. As I am usually in search of adventures, and can easily take what offers, I consented to the proposal, and followed the landlord up-stairs to a large handsome room, where I was soon served with a good supper, and found myself every way comfortable. While supper was preparing, I amused myself with looking about the room. It was evidently appropriated to meetings of clubs and societies; and at one end I found a set of Rules framed and glazed, which I thought so original, that I carefully copied them; and they were as follows:—

"RULES

*Of the AMORPHORHIN Club, held at this House.*

"1. The members of this Club shall be called AMORPHORHINS; and shall meet here every Tuesday evening at seven o'clock, for the support and patronage of odd and ugly noses.

"2. Admission shall be by ballot; and each member shall pay an admission fee of five shillings, and also six-pence weekly.

"3. The qualification shall be a nose unusually long, broad, thick, or distinguished by some strange colour or remarkable deformity.

"4. The chairman shall be elected every three years; the preference being given to a nose of extraordinary ugliness.

"5. Any surplus money at the end of each year shall be spent in purchasing snuff, spectacles, and pocket-handkerchiefs, for the use of the members.

"6. If any member shall be heard to reproach another with the ugliness of his nose, or regret that of his own, he shall forfeit half-a-crown."

"Appropriate pictures were hung round the room; among which I noticed one of a man with an enormous nose covered with carbuncles, and beneath it the name of Tonglianns, whom Martial describes as being nothing but nose. There was a picture of a rhinoceros, and another of an elephant's trunk. There stood near this a case containing a dried specimen of a nose said to have belonged to the giant Goliath. The pasteboard nose of

Sancho Panza was kept as a curiosity; and in a large frame were numerous drawings of the most remarkable noses of members of the Club.

"Being exceedingly diverted with this singular society, I resolved to visit the inn again on a Tuesday evening; and contrive, if possible, to see some of the strange noses, and learn something of the proceedings. I went accordingly soon after; but unfortunately did not arrive till all the members were assembled, with closed doors. I could not, of course, gain admittance; but curiosity led me to hide myself outside, near the door, where I listened attentively, in hopes of catching some of the conversation. It appeared that the chairman was haranguing the Club; but I could only catch a few expressions, and occasionally a short sentence. He extolled the great advantage of long noses, observing that the Romans used them as pegs to hang all sorts of things upon, '*suspendens omnia naso.*' He observed that they esteemed noses so highly, that eminent persons were named from them; thus Ovid was called *Naso*, and Scipio, *Nasica*. I also understood him to say that they accounted it a singular privilege to have an ugly nose; for Martial says: '*non cuiquam datum est habere nasum,*' by which he must have meant a nose out of the common. I own that, with all this, I was fairly led by the nose, and felt a great longing to belong to this Club of Nosologists. But as I felt my own nose, I was convinced that it was too well proportioned to afford me any hope of admission: so I softly and cautiously withdrew, before the members of the Club separated.

"I am, Mr. Editor,

"Your constant reader,

"PHILOPHUS."

THE OLDEST VOLUNTEER.—Every now and then there crops up a fresh "oldest volunteer." The latest of these veterans is now stated to have borne arms in 1806.

I beg leave to "make a note of it," that in the winter of 1796, when rising twenty, I was enrolled in the Lawyers' Corps (Dublin), and served therein, *non sine pulvere*, through 1797, 1798, and in 1803. But O, how the faces and forms and voices of my high-blooded comrades gather round me as I write of them, now in dust and silence!

Should I ever journey back to England, I shall surely ask some volunteer mess to give me a glass of wine, therein to drink the health of our dear Queen; but especially the Civil Service Corps, having held office in the Royal Household under four successive sovereigns.

EDMUND LENTHAL SWIFTE,

A VOLUNTEER OF SEVENTY-ONE YEARS' STANDING.

"TURNING THE TABLES."—The following very curious notice of this phrase is to be found in Evelyn's *Sylva* (Hunter's edition), 4to, p. 190, &c. I do not remember hearing of such intimation in any other author:—

"The Maple, for the elegance and fineness of the wood, is next to the Citron itself. There are several kinds of it, especially the White, which is wonderfully beautiful; this is called the French Maple, and grows in that part of Italy that is on the other side of the Po beyond the Alps; the other has a curled grain so curiously maculated