when procured, should be offered to some stable institution for public use on condition that they should be inaccessible. ROTT. HARRISON.

6. M. Foster, Garden, W. L. Thomas is so real that there is no doubt whatever that the admission proposal made in your columns will receive very considerable support. These old magazines contain so much information that has been obtained elsewhere, this most of us, at some time or other, find occasion to refer to them. How much Thackeray learned from their pages, may be known who have any knowledge of his mode of work. The power to use the rough materials with the skill of the great novelist is not given to many. As the outgrowth of a desire to use the materials thus obtained. Although so highly appreciated by some of us, no class of books is more despised by others. How often we hear the expression, "It is only an old magazine," and can we go on. A wise library committee may be succeeded by one with a destroying mania, and we can never be sure but what some day we may be left with a large quantity of valuable serials which have been turned out as lumber from a library to which we have access. Two cases in point are mentioned by M. Thoms, in the "Camomiana," the second of the two being the Patent Office Library, from which a large quantity of most valuable serials have just been turned out, to the great regret of many. The now retired Cumming, of the Bucknell, Librarian of the Board of Trade, who had succeeded in obtaining for that office a very valuable library, a large number of the books were turned out. I am told that on one occasion when Mr. Bright was President he specially wanted a book which was found to be one of those turned out.

Mr. Thoms does not limit his proposal, but I venture to think it should be limited to dead magazines. Two things (1) are taken in by existing libraries: (2) occupy much room by reason of the constant accretion of volumes; and, most potent reason of all, (3) cost a great deal of money. When a magazine dies let it be raised to the honour of recognition by the new library. I would further ask the question whether it would be advisable to retain this literature in its entirety in the old magazine. I do not say it would be unadvisable to do so, but I doubt whether sufficient money could ever be obtained. New libraries, however, might do no harm in collecting the library largely by presents of books, and I cannot help thinking that it would be wise to deposit the collection in some existing library. As the issue would be an old, it should be kept permanently distinct and be added to as opportunity occurred. By this means the heavy cost of keeping up a special subscription library would be avoided.

HENRY B. WHEATLEY.

* * * Mr. Wheatley forgets that the prohibition of living magazines would lead to the exclusion of the learned "Gentleman's Magazine," the most valuable, perhaps, of any to the antiquary.

THE "CAMOMIANA" OF LISBON.

P. FASHNALL MADDOX.

I now send you a few lines concerning the Camomiana collection, and notes on matters of public interest at Olinda. The building is the old Academy, called Academia da Nova, and is now known to the guide-books. The dwarf, irregularly fruited square has been named Largo da Biblioteca Nacional, a large building of modern architecture in Portugal rivalling that of Paris. Why, for instance, should the venerable Chiado become Rua de Garrett? The broken line of ragged trees, ugly, narrow streets, and a lack of cleanliness, have been improved off, your true Portuguese hates such growth as a backwater. As the outside of the edifice is a newspaper convent (Franciscan) reformed, and utilised, so the interior consists of cold galleries and colder cells. The fine arts, confined to the ground floor, fare, perhaps, a little better; but the national library has not on the first floor a complaint of bad lodging for themselves and their volumes. It costs, however, enormous sums to house the libraries of the state.

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Entering the folding doors, we pass from the common hall into a marble-paved passage running north and south. Upon it opens the Sala do Pelekanos, a double (building) room, frescoed by the artist of the same name. We then turn into an east and west gallery, and, counting eight doors on the right side, come upon the collection. The bookcase labelled "Camomiana" contains five shelves of valuable publications. The volumes number a total of 296 (57 + 54 + 59 + 60 + 60), but not a few are duplicates and intermixed. The collection is admirably arranged, and wholly consists of valuable and interesting publications. By this method, space will be allowed for the addition of new publications. The addenda will contain, if I may so express, a new calendar of the "Twelve of England." Concerning the latter, nothing in this work was more interesting to the learned and estimable Miss Braddon than "Quentin Durward." It is still much wanted.

Not would an English writer be justified in looking up, at Lisbon without noticing the handsome "Miss Braddon," a notice of 1882, signed "Mr. E. W. Lewtas, which he continued to the end. Mr. E. W. Lewtas will follow in his father's footsteps. RICHARD F. BURTON.

"COMPLETE."

MESSRS. MAXWELL'S statement, I submit, hardly meets the case. When we look at the booklets in question (the cover forming the title-page), which runs thus in "Quentin Durward," for example, "British Standard Library of Fiction, One Penny Denier Edition," implying that the reader is the "Twelve of England," the inference surely is that the novel is given in its entirety. Messrs. Maxwell say "Miss Braddon is not editor." On opening the "Quentin Durward," I read "Miss Braddon's Penny Edition of Sir Walter Scott's Works," which was to be edited by Miss Braddon "with reverential regard to their peculiar merits and characteristics." Z.

CHATTERTON.

Bristol, Jan. 21, 1882.

I am sorry that Mr. John H. Ingram appears to be unacquainted with the difference between the old and new [text corrupted]. Had he been aware of this distinction, he would have seen that the nominal discrepancy of an exact year in the record of the baptism of Mary Chatterton is owing to the use of the one style in the Bible history and of the other style in the parish register. I despair, however, of conveying the genuineness of any of the inscriptions except by his inspection of the documents in which they are presented. Had he consulted these documents before writing his "Athenaeum," he would not have adopted the false information of the published biographies, and the whole controversy which he opened would have been spared. As to his old remark