

GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS, CONSIDERED AS TENDING TO
ENRICH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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Some years ago, a Paper of mine was printed, entitled "PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES," the object of which was to show that from the earliest times to the present hour, and in all countries, the names of places have been imparted on fixed principles. Though the individual who assigns a new name, may appear to himself to act capriciously, he is in reality verifying a known rule unconsciously: so that the knowledge of these principles, and of a few terms from foreign languages, unlocks to us the meaning of a vast number of local words. Thus *Eas-ton*, *Wes-ton*, *Nor-ton*, and *Sut-ton*, represent places which are related in direction to a larger central town; *Middle-ton* is the central point between more important extremities; *Entre Rios* is the country between the rivers; *Snea-fel* the snowy mountain; and *Deux-ponts* the two bridges.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

In pursuing researches of this kind, the attention was sometimes arrested by a tendency of an opposite kind; and one which does not take effect to any thing like the same extent. It is the reciprocal action of Geographical terms, in giving back to language, significant and useful words. Few suspect that such a fact exists, and I am not aware that any one has done more than merely notice it, in connexion with two or three words. To anticipate a little, for the sake of illustration, words of this kind include the terms *bayonet* which comes from Bayonne, *delf* from Delft, and *muslin* from Mosul. Thus the names of foreign places enrich the English language; and as our productions are very numerous, English local names enrich foreign languages in return. Sometimes, as will be seen, places in any particular country add to the words of that country itself.

Though the number of places which have imparted terms to our language is large absolutely, it is small by comparison. An educated man might

readily explain a hundred names of places, showing that common terms have become proper, before he could produce a single example of this curious reflex action. The origin of such words is concealed by a variety of disguises, such as the remoteness of the derivation in time, or of ourselves in place, or the carelessness of speakers, or the changes incident to words in accordance with the known laws of language. Yet, to the antiquary, the philologist and the lexicographer, most of them are old acquaintances; and when thrown together, especially with a little grouping in classes, one is surprised to see how largely the Atlas has repaid the contributions of the Dictionary. In not a few instances, these two principles are illustrated in the same examples; as we can recognise the time and manner in which a geographical *proper* name was conferred, and again the time and manner in which it added a *common* noun to our language. A few examples are given; but many more will be suggested as we proceed.

FIRST PROCESS:—THE DICTIONARY
ENRICHES THE ATLAS.

An island in the Atlantic, was named from a particular species of extinct dog (*canis*) Canary isle; and the name is now extended to a group of thirteen.

When America was discovered, the people of a particular island were in the habit of smoking; and from the pipe which they used, called *tabak*, the island was named Tobago.

The word Archipelago literally means Grecian sea (*Argeio-pelagos*); which sea possesses the peculiarity of abounding in islands.

Near St. Bride's well in London a prison was erected, and it naturally received the proper name of Bridewell.

In the middle of the 16th century the brothers Gobelin, silk dyers of Paris, built a large dye-house, known as Gobelin's Folly. It was purchased a century after by the King, and called Hotel des Gobelins.

A tribe from Germany, distinguished by long beards, were known as the Langobardi, or Longobardi; they settled in the north of Italy and gave name to Lombardy.

SECOND PROCESS:—THE ATLAS REPAYS
THE DICTIONARY.

From the Canary isles we derive *canary** wine, and the *canary* bird; also in connexion with the latter, *canary* seed, and *canary* colour.

A narcotic plant, procured originally from Tobago, was named *tobacco*; but it is now produced in large quantities elsewhere.

The term *archipelago* is now a common noun meaning a group of islands; and, in general Gazetteers, there are fifteen or twenty enumerated, to which the word is currently applied.

The term *bridewell* now means a house of correction; and in some of our large towns there are several.

The Hotel des Gobelins was assigned for the use of artists of high standing; and the tapestry manufactured there is known as *Gobelin* tapestry.

The Italians, called generally Lombards, (as all British subjects are sometimes called English,) introduced money lending into London. A money-lender or a bank was therefore a *lombard*, and the street in which they settled was *Lombard* street.

* You have drunk too much *canaries*, and that is a marvellous searching wine.

Let us examine the formation of such words synthetically.

1. Nothing is more natural than that a new or peculiar production should be named from the place where it originated; and this accordingly is the first stage in the process, with all words of this class. The geographical allusion is obvious. We have, therefore, such expressions as *Derbyshire* spar, *Geneva* watches, *Ormskirk* gingerbread, *Yarmouth* bloaters, *Cheshire* cheese.

2. In the next stage, the local adjective loses its geographical character, and merely denotes that the articles are of the *kind* produced in that place. Thus, *Birmingham* cutlery means cutlery of the Birmingham type; and it is not meant that *Welsh* rabbit (rare bit,) *German* clocks, *Russian* cream, *Newfoundland* dogs, *Paisley* shawls, *Welsh* flannel, and *Havanna* cigars are produced at those places respectively. The terms, in such cases, are used in a new and extended sense; as when we say that a large quantity of *port* wine is produced in London. A similar extension of meaning takes place in words of various kinds; though hypercritics are always ready to show a supposed contradiction. Thus, a man may experience passion (anger) without *suffering*; he may subscribe (contribute) without *writing* his name *under*; he may encircle (surround) his house by a *rectilinear* wall; and he may be a *sycophant* (flatterer) without thinking of a *fig-merchant*.

3. In the course of years a further change takes place. The adjective is quoted instead of the noun, until it becomes itself a noun, and the word, when written, drops the capital letter. Thus we speak of a *toledo* instead of a Toledo blade, and of *parramatta* instead of Parramatta stuff. Two classes of persons employ these terms;—the educated who still recognise the local allusion, and the multitude who suppose that the word is somehow descriptive of the thing. The idea of place, whether referring to the locality of the article or merely to its kind, is obsolescent, with more or less rapidity. Thus we say *corinthian* brass, *dunlop* cheeses, *epsom* salts, *macassar* oil, *peruvian* bark.

4. The last condition in which the words occur is when the transformation is complete, and the idea of place is quite obsolete. The proper noun, referring to an individual place, has now become common, referring to a class; and the original meaning is left to be traced by philologists and others.

It may be interesting to examine some of these words in sets or classes;

and to notice that the law of their formation is general, and not restricted to any one sort of objects. The local allusion at first appears as if in large characters; in time these become diminished; gradually they are ambiguous or undistinguishable; and finally, they require artificial aids to bring them into view.

II.—TEXTILE FABRICS, AND COLOURS.

When we speak of *Riga* flax-seed, *Manilla* hemp, or *Chinese* silk, the geographical allusion is supposed to be seen by every one: we merely refer the material to the district in which it was produced, and the quality is supposed to be known by inference.

The case is different when we speak of *Saxony* cloth or wool; for, in commerce, the finer kinds of Australian wool and their products have the term applied to them, as being of perhaps equal excellence. Also, when we speak of *Brussels* or *Kidderminster* carpets, we only indicate a particular kind: it is not meant that they were woven at either of those places.

The geographical allusion is at least obsolescent in *Arras*,* originally from Arras, in Artois; in *Bayeux* tapestry, a historical piece of needle-work preserved in the cathedral of Bayeux; in *Chantilly*, *Nankin*, and *Padua* serge.

The manufacture of twisted woollen thread was brought into England towards the close of the fourteenth century. It was first produced at the village of Worsted, near Norwich, whence the term *worsted* † and *linsey-woolsey* was first woven at Lindsey, a parish near Hadleigh, in Suffolk. In modern times, the word receives a sort of punning application, as it denotes a mixture of *lin-en* and *wooll-en*.—A similar mixture was called *drugget*, from the town of Drogheda, in Ireland. Very little of it is manufactured there now, and the term has become altered in meaning, so as to denote printed floor-cloths made wholly of wool.—At the village of Kersey, near Lindsey, and at the mere beside it, *Kerseymere* ‡ was first woven. It

* Behind the *arras* I'll convey myself,
To hear the process.—SHAKSP., *Hamlet*.

† The *jearnsey* worsted mentioned by Stubbes, came from Guernsey.

‡ “*Kerseymere*” is often confounded with *cashmere*, a manufacture from Cashmere, in the Punjaub.

Who has not heard of the vale of *Cashmere*,
With its roses the brightest that earth ever gave,
Its temples and grottos, and fountains as clear
As the love-lighted eyes that hang over their wave?
MOORE, *Lalla Rookh*.

is now commonly called "cassimer," and the term, as in the case of drugget, is applied to a totally different material. *Kersey** is also an old term for cloth.

The finer kinds of linen came from the Netherlands, and hence certain descriptions are still called *Holland*,† but formerly the term was as general as the word linen. At Cambray, on the Scheldt, *cambric* was first manufactured; *dimity* at Damietta; *calico*‡ at Calicut; *damask*§ at Damascus; *fustian*|| at Fustat, in Egypt; *gingham* at Guingamp, in France; *sleasy*, or "sleasy holland," (a very thin kind of linen) at Silesia; *frieze*¶ at Friesland; and *shalloon* at Chalons.** From Bocking, in Essex, we have *bockings*; *baize* from Baia, near Naples; and *diaper* from Ypres, (d'Ypres,)|| The term *sarcenet* denotes Saracens' silk; and Gobelin tapestry has been

* A.D. 1619; P^d for vj y'des and halfe of *Kyrsey* cloth for my M^r. (at ij^s iiij^d) xv^s ij^d.—*Shuttleworth Accounts*.—"3 yards of *carsey*."—*Appendix to Do*. In 1585 the London Haberdashers sold "Flander-dyed *Kerseys*."

A linen stock on one leg, and a *kersey* boot-hose on the other.

SHAKSP., *Taming of the Shrew*.

† The shirt that was upon his back

Was of the *holland* fine,

The doublet that was over that

Was of the *lincome* twine.—*Old Ballad*.

1605; 21 ells of *holland* at 3/6;—one ell of *holland* 5/4. "The costume of the wealthy, and in most parts the clothing of the poor, was supplied from abroad."—*Wade*. "Those countries are rich and wealthy of themselves, abounding with . . . silks, velvets, satins, *damasks*, *sarcenet*, *taffeta*, *chalet* and the like, (for all these are made in those foreign countries.) . . . they might sell them to us for our wools, *friezes*, *rugs*, *carsies*, and the like. . . . I have heard my father, with other wise sages, affirm that in his time, within the compass of four or five score years, men went clothed in black or white *frieze* coats, in hosen of housewife's *carzie*, of the same colour that the sheep bare them, and they ware shirts of hemp or flax."—STUBBS, *Anatomic of Abuses*.

‡ Some suppose the word is abridged from "calimanco," a stuff made of wool.

§ "Hanc operis Damasceni vestem quidam putant referri ad vestes scutulatas variis formis luxuriantes." "From Beruthe to Sardenare is 3 *Journeyes*; and from Sardenar is 5 *Myle* to *Damask*."—*Maundeville*, 1356.

|| Some suppose that *fustian* is derived from *fist in*, because it and *bombast* were used as we now employ cotton wool, for stuffing and extending garments. Hence the two English words *fustian* and *bombast* as applied to language and argument. Chaucer says of his knight, "of *fustian* he wred a gipon;"—and in a poem of the 15th century mention is made of "*fustian* and canvas," "much *fustian* and linen cloth."

¶ 1621: thre y'des of *fryse* (at ij^s*) for a jerkin for my maister, ix^s. *Shuttleworth Accounts*. A *fryze* jerkyn ij^s*. *Ib.*, *Appendix*. "French cloth or *frizard*." *Ib.*, *Notes*.

** And in his owen chamber hem made a bedde

With shetes and with *chalons* fair yspredde.

CHAUCER, *C. T.*, 4138.

++ Fine cloth of *Ypre*, that named is better than ours.

Old Poem: Libel of English Policie.

explained. *Silk*, anciently *serica*,* is named from *Serica*, a province in China; and particular kinds are known as *persian*, *gros de naples*, and *levant-ines*. The material known as *jane*, formerly "Genne" and "Gens," was originally Genoese in its production.

On the same principle, certain articles of dress are named, as *gaskins*† (wide hose) from Gascony; *galligaskins*, viz., Gallic-Gascon‡ hose; *dalmatic*, an ecclesiastical vestment, from Dalmatia; and *cravat* from Croatia. This last article was introduced by the Croats when in alliance with the French, and thus it came into general use. "A *millen bonnet*" (Milan), reminds us of the *tuscan* plat of our own days; and "a *myllyan ffustyan dublytt*" contains a double geographical allusion.

In former times, the Phrygians were greatly occupied in making vests, and hence the Latin term *phrygio* to denote a seamstress or work-woman. In like manner, "opus *Phrygianum*," or *Phrygian* work, denoted embroidery, and needle-work of various kinds.

In colours, we used to have *Bristol* red and *Coventry* blue;§ but *Lincoln*|| and *Kendal*¶ were used as separate terms for woollen cloth, generally of a green colour. Purple, which was formerly procured at Tyre, is sometimes alluded to under the name of *Tyrian* dye; *Persian* meant blue; and *indigo*, as its name imports, is a product of India. Scarlet was also called *bow-dye*, from the village of Bow, near London, at which it was produced in large quantities. Stamford, in Lincolnshire, was also celebrated for its green cloth; and hence the "albos, nigros, virides, scarleticos, et *stamford-iatos*" of John de Garlande.

It has been remarked, in connection with a kindred subject, that "the term *Lurgan-french-cambrie* contains within itself the history of the

* The letters *r* and *l* are interchangeable, as in *lap* for *wrap*, *laurer* *laurel*, *colonel* *cor'nel*, *coriander* *cofianer*, *turtur* *turtle*. "*Sericum*, *seole*."—*Archbishop Aelfric's Vocabulary*.

† The inner parts of a horse's thigh were also called *gascuyns*. Shakspeare employs the word noticed in the text, *Twelfth Night*, i. 5, "if both points break, your *gaskins* fall." Compare this expression with that in 1 Henry IV., ii. 4, "their points being broken,—down fell their *hose*."

‡ The eastern part of the modern Gascony is within the limits of *Gallia Braccata*, so called from the "breeches," worn by the inhabitants.

§ Thence to Coventry, where 'tis said—a *Coventry-blue* is only made-a.—O. B. *Drunken Barnaby*.

|| See note to *holland*.

¶ "For 4 yards of *Kendall* for Mayde Marian's huke."—*Kingston Parish Records*.

“manufacture, which originated at Cambray, was brought to great perfection throughout France, and is produced, of good quality and in large quantities, at Lurgan. A similar remark applies to the term *Dunfermline-irish-holland*.” In another part of the same treatise the following is added:—“How strange it is that three such simple expressions as ‘Damasked Calico Fustian,’ ‘Cambric Muslin Cravat,’ and ‘Diapered ‘Worsted Galli-Gaskins’ should contain allusions to ten different places in Europe, Asia, and Africa! One of the simplest and least useful of our articles of dress, has tasked the capabilities of the human family to contribute their respective parts, from beyond the Euphrates to the basin of the Rhine!”*

III.—ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

The *Newfoundland* dog, *Manx* cat, and *Skye* terrier, tell their history in their names.—The *spaniel* is a native of Spain, as the *greyhound* (*Graius*) is of Greece. Our domestic *puss*, more properly “pers,” is from Persia, and the name is also extended to the hare.† The *tiger* is said to be named from his resemblance in rapidity to the river *Tigris*. The *pole-cat* is from Poland.—Among the feathered tribes, some proclaim their origin, as the *Guinea* fowl, also called “*Gallinæ Africanae*,” and those known as *Cochin-china*. But many who speak of *Dorkings* do not know that *Dorking* is in Surrey; or that *bantams* are from *Bantam*, in India beyond the *Ganges*. The *pheasant* (in Latin, *phasi-anus*) comes from the river *Phasis* in Georgia, and in provincial English is still known as a *phasion*.‡—Among horses, we have the *Galloway* nag, from the ancient kingdom of *Galloway*, in Scotland; the *barb*§ from *Barbary*; the little ragged *shelty* from the *Shetland* Isles; and the *raghery*, a similar animal, from the island of *Rathlin* or *Raghery*, on the coast of *Antrim*.|| The *hackney* is sometimes said to come from

* From “Two Essays on Spinning and Weaving,” contributed to the *Ulster Journal of Archæology*, by the author of this paper.

† A MS. in the Bodleian Library contains a mediæval poem, forty-four lines of which mention no fewer than seventy-nine names for the hare! See *Reliquiæ Antiquæ*, i. 133.

‡ *Phasiani dicuntur Gallicè faisans*.—*John de Garlande*.

§ Up rose that Dervise—not in saintly garb,
But like a warrior bounding on his barb.

BYRON, *Corsair*.

|| *Hobby* is defined by *Sherwood*, in 1650, as “cheval Irlandois.”—“Of such outlandish horses as are daily brought over unto us I speak not, as the genet of Spain, the courser of Naples, the hobby of Ireland, the Flemish roile, and the Scottish nag.” *Harrison's Description of England*.

Hackney near London, but the French *haquenée* is also suggested. In France, the *camargue* is an ungovernable little horse from Camargue at the Mouths of the Rhone.

The leather known as *turkey*, *russia*, or *morocco*, indicates two things: first, the original article manufactured in the country whose name it bears; and second, a less valuable home product, in imitation of it. In like manner, *cordovan* is a name for a particular kind of leather which came from Cordova,* in Spain; and shoemakers, or workers in leather, are known as *cordwainers* or *cordiners*. Our *parchment* (*charta pergamena*) was invented at Pergamos† in Asia Minor.—The term *Cheddar* is less known in its application to cheese than *Stilton*; the former is adopted from Cheddar, in Somerset, and the latter from Stilton, in Huntingdon. From the plain of Parma, we derive a product of the same kind, known as *parmesan*.—The down known as *eider* is found on a duck which frequents the river Eider, in Holstein; and *ermine* was originally the production of Armenia.

The designations of men are scarcely less curious. The *brigand* was named from the Brigantes, because, like them, of predatory habits; and *slave* is derived from the Slavonians, of whom great numbers were reduced to bondage by the Germans and Venetians.§ The term *cyprian* is sometimes applied to females, like the worshippers of Venus at Cyprus; and the Bulgarians gave to us a word now happily almost obsolete. An *Indian* is not necessarily a native of India, but a man of savage or primitive§ habits; a *black-a-moor* originally meant a black Moor; and *Bohemian* is a general term on the continent for gypsy. Swift's names, *Liliputian* and *Brobdingnagian*, have become general, though Liliput and Brobdingnag are only imaginary places. Formerly, a flatterer was an *abydocomist*, from the

* Cordwane, corium denominatum a Corduba urbe Hispaniæ. Alias quoque *marrocin* vocant, ab urbe Marrocco. Saracenos quoque Cordubenses nuncupavit mediæ ætas; quòd Corduba tunc fuerit eorum Regia.—JUNIUS, *Etymologicum Anglicanum*.

† Scriptor habet ratorium, sive novaculam, ad abradendum sordes *pergameni* (parchemin) sive membrane.—ALEXANDER NECKAM, *De Utensilibus*.

Cum plana pergameniste preparant *pergamenum*.—John de Garlande.

‡ “Videntur interim apud Germanos id primitus nomen ii habuisse, quos è fortissimâ “slavorum gente captos in servitute redeçissent. Postea vero, latiùs extensa est significatio vocis ad quosvis cujusvis gentis captivos in servitutem redactos.”

JUNIUS, *Et. Ang.*

§ Lo! the poor *Indian*, whose untutored mind
Sees God in clouds or hears him in the wind;
His soul, proud science never taught to stray
Far as the solar walk or milky way.

POPE, *Essay on Man*.

character of the people of Abydos ; a *Frank** in Turkey means an inhabitant of Western Europe generally ; and a person of great stature was a *Patagonian*. A heroic man is a *Trojan* ; a brutish or ill-mannered person is a *Turk* ; one with great acerbity of temper is a *Tartar* ; and in contention *Greek* meets *Greek*. A good *Samaritan*, or benevolent man is indebted to Samaria for the epithet ; and among religious denominations, *Romanist* originates at modern Rome, and *Moravian* at Moravia, in Austria. The term *Orangeman*, known chiefly in Ireland, is derived, by a circuitous process, from Orange,† a small town on the left bank of the Rhone.

Sometimes modern writers, especially the poets, refer to a person well known, by the name of the place where he was born. Thus, Democritus was born at Abdera in Thrace, and hence he is called the *Abderite* ; and from his practice of laughing at the follies of mankind, our old English writers spoke of *Abderian* laughter. In like manner, Aristotle, who was born at Stagira in Macedonia, is often called the *Stagirite*, and philosophers of his school the *Stagirites*. On the same principle, we have "*Samian sage*" (Pythagoras) ; "*Bactrian† lawgiver*" (Zoroaster) ; and *Scian* and *Teian§* muse, (Homer and Anacreon.)

IV.—VEGETABLES.

The terms *African* Marigolds and *Swedish* Turnips are self-explanatory ; but in *Ribston* pippins the geographical allusion is not so distinct. The name *Persian* lily shows the native country of the plant, but the Latin

* Trust not for freedom to the *Franks*,
They have a king who buys and sells ;
In native swords and native ranks
The only hope of courage dwells.

BYRON, *Isles of Greece*.

† It became a principality in the Middle ages, and from it a member of the house of Nassau derived his title. The Princes of Orange became also Stadtholders of Holland, and one of them King of England. The orange (fruit), " though the same arrangement " of letters is a totally different word," derived from *aurantium* or *malum aureum*, as if one of the golden apples which Hercules brought from the gardens of the Hesperides. The two were united by a punning inscription on a medal, representing an orange tree in full bearing and an oak tree prostrated,—"*pro glandibus aurea poma*." Hence the adherents to William's principles call themselves *orange men* ; and they adopt the *orange* colour, so named from the fruit.

‡ Behold each mighty shade reveal'd to sight,
The *Bactrian*, *Samian* sage, and all who taught the right.

BYRON, *Chi. Har.*

§ The *Scian* and the *Teian* muse,
The hero's harp, the lover's lute,
Have found the fame your shores refuse.

BYRON, *Is. of Gr.*

name, "*Lilium Susianum*," shows that it was brought from Susa. The *Narcissus Japonicus* is, as its name imports, a native of Japan; and as the ship which conveyed it to this country was wrecked at Guernsey, where it grew and flourished, it is also called the *Guernsey* lily.

There are many simple names of vegetables, such as *French* beans, *Seville* oranges, *Barbary* dates, *Levant* figs. *Spinage* literally means Spanish (*Atriplex Hispanicus*); the *currant*, formerly spelled "corinth," was brought from Corinth;* the *damson*, or "damascene," from Damascus;† the *scallion* from Ascalon‡; the *savoy* cabbage from Savoy; and the *rounceval* pea from Roncevalles in the Pyrennees. The *apricot* is from Armenia, and is called abricock,§ in Somerset, pomum *Armenium* præcox. The *eschalot*, or French onion (*Allium Ascalonicum*), takes its name from Ascalon. An Irish peasant's walking-stick is called a *shillelagh*, from Shillelagh, in Wicklow, formerly celebrated for its oak forest. The *quince* or malum *Cydonium* (quiddoneum,|| or cottoneum) is so called from a town in Crete. The *cherry* is from Cerasus in Pontus; the *peach* from Persia;¶ the *fama-gust* apple from Famagusta** in Cyprus; and the *tarragon* (Dragon wort) from Tarragona in Spain.

As tea reaches us from China, the various kinds naturally bear the names of the Chinese districts in which they were respectively produced. Thus, *bohea*, *congou*, *hyson*, and *souchong*, are household and commercial words throughout the civilized world, but they are geographical terms on a map of China. On the same principle, we have the *Assam* tea, from a part of further India; and *Paraguay* tea from a district of that name in South America.

* "Currants vel corands, *Corinthiaca* uvæ."

† "Old writers have called those that grow in Syria, near Damascus, *damsons* or "*damask* plums, and those that grow in Spain Spanish prunes or plums; others from the countries, are called prunes of Hungary, France, &c." "The *Damascene* plum is "round, of a bluish black colour." The Counts of Anjou introduced the "prunes "*damysyns*" into Europe.—*Harland's Illustrations of Shutt. Accts.*

‡ "Ascalonia, ab oppido Judææ nominata est."—PLINY. "Hec *ascolonia*, a hol-leke." *Nominate 15th Century.*

§ Whose golden gardens seeme th' Hesperides to mock,
Nor there the *damzon* wants, nor daintie *abricock*.

DRAYTON, *Polyolbion*.

|| Similarly *quishion* for *cushion*; as "fyve skines to bottome *quishiones*, ij^a. vj^d."

¶ *Mala pessica* (i.e. *Persica*).—*John de Garlande, 13th Century.*

** Very many species of apples, like fruits in general, have derived their names from places where they originated:—as the *Manx* codlin, *Hawthornden* apple, *London* pippin, *Yorkshire* greening, *Blenheim* orange, *Kentish* codling, &c.

V.—WINE AND SPIRITS.

The terms *Devonshire* cider, *Alloa* ale, *Plymouth* gin, and others like them are sufficiently explanatory; but it requires some acquaintance with geography to know that *bordeaux* wine is from a French town of that name, *champagne* from a French province, *moselle* from beside a river which gives name to a French department, and *madeira* from a Portuguese island.

It is of course still more difficult to see that *port* is from Oporto, *sherry** from Xeres de la Frontera in Spain, *cape* from the Cape of Good Hope, or *roussillon* from the province of that name in the eastern Pyrennees. In like manner, *neckar* is from the banks of the Neckar a tributary of the Rhine; *tokay* from Tokay in Hungary; *rhenish* from the Rhine countries; *vernage* from Verona; and *malmsey*, † anciently "malvoisie," ‡ from Malvasia in Greece.§ On the same principle *chian* and *samian* wine take their names from Chios and Samos;|| as *Falernian* and *Massic* in the ancient times did from Falernus and Massicus.

* "Vinum notissimum, ab urbe Xeres, olim Esecuris dicta, in Andalusia Hispaniæ Boetiæ provincia, ad ostia Anæ fluvii sita, unde advehitur."—SKINNER.

+ "The names of sweete wyne I wold that ye them knewe, *Vernage*, *vermagill*, vine kute, pyment pasguse, muscadell of grewe, Romney of *Modon*, bastard, *tyre*, assey, tentyn of Ebrwe, *Greece*, *Malmesay* capericke, and clary when it is newe."

"Ye shall have *Spaynesh* wyne and *Gascoyne*, Rose-colour, whyte, claret, rampyon, *Tyre*, capryck, and *malvesyne*."—*Interlude of the Four Elements*.

With him he brought a jubbe of *Malvesie*
And eke another full of fine *Vernage*.—CHAUCER, *Shipmannes Tale*.

Credo sic dictum quasi *Veronaccia*, ab agro *Veronensi*, in quo optimum ex hoc genere vinum crescit.—SKINNER. De l'isle de Candie, il leur venoit tres bonnes *Malvoisies* et *grenaches* (gernaches ou *vernaches*?) dont ils estoient largement servis et comfortez. FROISSART.

"Throw him into the *malmsey* butt in the next room."
SHAKESPEARE, *Richard III*.

"The arrant *malmsey*-nosed knave,—Bardolph."
SHAKESPEARE, *2 Henry IV*.

‡ Now broach ye a pipe of *Malvoisie*,
Bring pasties of the doe;
Let every minstrel sound his glee,
And all our trumpets blow.—SCOTT, *Marmion*.

§ Ariusium nempe vel Arvisium promontorium est insulae Chii, vulgo nunc Marvisia vel Malvasia corrupte nuncupatur, atque inde vinum hoc denominatum.—JUNIUS. Strabo says, in treating of Chios, "Arvisius is a rough district without a haven, of about 300 stadii, and producing the best wine in all Greece." Virgil, in his Eclogues, alludes to the place under the oldest form of the name:

"Vina novum fundam, calathis *Arvisia* nectar."—v. 71.

|| A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine:
Dash down yon cup of *Samian* wine.—BYRON.

Among the various kinds of spirits, the general terms *Irish* whiskey and *Scotch* whiskey denote colour and quality rather than place; but *ferintosh* and *glenlivet* are distilled at places of the same name in Scotland, and *innishowen* is from the district of Innishowen adjoining Londonderry. Genuine *hollands* are brought from Holland; and the best *cognac* from Cognac in France.

VI.—EARTHS AND MINERALS.

The terms *Swedish* iron, *Caen* stone, and *Aberdeen* granite, explain themselves; but few think that *parian* marble came from the island of Paros in the Grecian Archipelago. *Nitre** is from Nitria, a province of Egypt; and it was usual to speak of terra *Cimolia*, *Chia*, *Umbria*, *Samia*, &c. We have also *copper*, literally the metal from Cyprus; † *chalybs* (steel) and *chalybeate* from the Chalybes of Galatia; *chalcedony* from Chalcedon; the *agate* from Achates, a river of Sicily; *syenite* † from Syene in Egypt; and *permian* from the ancient kingdom of Perm in Russia. *Gypsum*, in Derbyshire vulgarly called "Gibson," is from Egypt §; and the *turquoise* takes its name from Turkey. || The *magnet*, anciently "magnes," is a production of Magnesia, ¶ in Asia Minor. Three metals little known, *Yttrium*, *Erbium* and *Terbium*, all take their names from Yttrium in Sweden. *Strontian* is from Strontian near Ardnamurchan in Argyleshire.

The principle is illustrated, also, in the case of coins. For example, the *bezaunt*, in heraldry, was named from its resemblance to a gold coin of that name; and the latter was so called from having been stamped at Byzantium,** now Constantinople. The *guinea* was supposed to be made of

* Nitrum, a Nitria provincia, ubi maxime nasci solet, nomen accepit.—JEROME.

+ In Cypro, prima fuit æris inventio.—PLINY.

† Scientific works contain many such terms, as *labrador-ite*, *baikal-ite*, *ural-ite*, *arragon-ite*, *greencok-ite*, *tarnovic-ite*, (from Tarnowitz, Silesia,) &c., the derivation of which is obvious.

§ The "Pictorial Vocabulary," in vol. I. of Mr Mayer's *Library of National Antiquities*, has the following quaint entry. "Hoc *egypsum*, a egypt-stone."

|| It belongs rather to Persia and Thibet.

¶ Take the ston that Titanos men name,
Which is that? quod he. *Magnetia* is the same.

CHAUCER, *C. T.* 16,941.

The Ademand, that is the Schipmannes ston, that drawethe the Needle to him.—

MAUNDEVILLE.

** Est numisma quoddam vetus ab occidentalibus Imperatoribus Byzantii, sive Constantinopoli primum eusum. Erat Bisanteum aureum et album seu argenteum. Bisanteum album valebat duobus solidis nostræ pecuniæ.—LYE. "After Dandrenoble to "Constantynoble, that was wont to be clept *Bezanon*."—MAUNDEVILLE.

gold brought from Guinea, in Africa; just as certain yellow tokens are vulgarly, but untruly, called *California* sovereigns at present. The *ducat** was a Ducal coin of northern Italy; the money formerly known as "marks" "*lubs*" was coined in the free city of Lubeck; the *florin*, now an English coin, is from Florence; and the old Irish halfpenny, known as a *crony-bawn*, was made of the copper from the Crone-bane copper mines in the Vale of Ovoca, Wicklow.

VII.—TERMS IN LITERATURE.

Our *Athenæums*, whether representing institutions or publications, are derived from the temple of Minerva at Athens; *academies* from the groves of Academus, where Plato taught; and *lyceums* from the Lyceum at Athens, in which Aristotle taught. From the district of Attica, in which Athens was situated, we derive several words, and sometimes one word has several meanings. Thus, an elegance of speech is known as an *atticism*, and when there are several in discourse, we are said to season it with *Attic* salt; while in Philology, that which is delicate, correct, and pure, is *attic*. We have also the *attic* order in architecture, and, by a figure of speech, the *attic* portion of a house. The Spartans and other inhabitants of Laconia were fond of abbreviated expressions, and hence the words *laconic* and *laconism*; also, a treatise, consisting of short pithy sayings is called *lacon*. The Vascones or Gascons were greatly addicted to boasting and untruth, and hence such language is denominated *gasconade*. From Rome, whose language was corrupted in the middle ages, arose the Romance language, and hence our terms *romance*, *romantic*, &c. Some important speeches of Demosthenes, respecting the town of Olynthus, in Macedonia, were called his *olynthiacs*; and, as in the case of his "philippics," the term has become generalized.

The art of printing was brought to perfection by slow degrees, and various countries contributed more or less to its improvement. We have therefore types known as *German* text, old *English*, *italic*, *egyptian*, *Roman*, and *gothic*. The *Arabic* numerals, which we derived remotely from Arabia, superseded the *Roman* notation by letters, found in the writings of ancient Rome. The *atlas*, whose maps carry the world on their face, is connected with the Atlas mountains, where the royal astronomer lived, who was said to carry the world on his back. The *olympiad* in time was derived from Olympia, in the Peloponnesus, where games were celebrated periodically; and Mount Parnassus, the fabled residence of the

* "How now, a rat? dead, for a ducat, dead."—SHAKESPEARE—*Hamlet*.

Muses, gives us a term which is applied to poets and poetry in general. A determined man crosses the *Rubicon*, as Cæsar crossed the river within which his duty lay; and a person in a remote and little known district, is said to reside in *Ultima Thule*, from the name which Tacitus gave to the most northern island in our seas. An impracticable scheme is said to be *utopian*, from Utopia (literally "no place,") described by Sir Thomas More. A portion of the Island of Sardinia was said to produce a disagreeable gas, which had the effect of distorting the features; and hence a *sardonic* grin came to mean a contemptuous smile.

VIII.—MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

We read in Chaucer of a "*Shefeld* thwitel," which a miller bore in his hose; and elsewhere of *Ripon* rowels, *Milan** steel, and *Bilbao*† blades. But the term *bilboes*,‡ formerly much in use, is not so readily understood; it indicates manacles or fetters, also manufactured at Bilbao. The ancient name of Birmingham (Brom-wych-ham) is still preserved by the common people; and of late years it has been contemptuously transferred to cheap and flashy jewellery, all of which is known as *brummagen*.

Of warlike implements, the *carronade*§ comes from the Carron iron works, in Scotland; the *pistol* from Pistoia, in Tuscany; the *pole-axe* from Poland; the *bayonet* from Bayonne, in France; and the *javelin* from the Gaveloces or Frieslanders.|| A *balearius* was originally a slinger, from the Balearic isles; but afterwards the word came to mean a bowman.¶ A *burgonet* is a helmet of Burgundy.

* Well was he armed from head to heel
In mail of plate, and *Milan* steel.—SCOTT, *Marmion*.

† Bilbo, a short sword.—*Ancient Dictionary*.

Like a good *bilbo*, hilt to point.—SHAKSP., *Merry Wives*, iii., 5.

I combat challenge of this latten *bilboe*.—SHAKS., *Merry Wives*, i., 1.

‡ Methought I lay, worse than the mutinies in the *bilboes*.—SHAKSP., *Hamlet*, v., 2.

§ Hairy-faced Dick is a man of his trade,
He stands by the breech of a long *carronade*,
The linstock glows in his bony hand,
And he watches the grim old skipper's command.

Bentley's Miscellany.

|| "Frisones igitur... ipsum Willielmum (de Hollandia), cum jaculis quae vulgariter *Gaveloces* appellant, quorum maximam notitiam habent et usum, Danisque securis... e vestigio hostiliter insequabantur."—M. PARIS, 1256.

¶ In like manner, Cotgrave writes in 1650:—"Archer, a warder in a town or "fortresse, whose weapon, at this day a halberd, was in old time a bowe and arrowes." Among ourselves there are grenadiers, though the grenade is not now in use; and it is not improbable that a Sheriff's attendants will be denominated Javelin-men, long after the present implements of office have been abandoned.

The *fiacre* was invented by Sauvage, in 1650, at the Hotel St. Fiacre; the *coach* came from Kotsee, in Hungary; the *landau* from Landau, in Bavaria; and the *berlin* from Berlin, the capital of Prussia.

The name *American* clipper suggests the history of the thing; and so does *Venetian* gondola. A *brigantine* is a piratical sort of vessel, and, like "brigand," is derived from the Brigantes. It has been supposed that *argosy* is derived from the name of Jason's ship, Argo, but it is more correctly derived from the port of Ragusa, which sent forth many of the kind.*

The vases known as *etruscan* were manufactured in the ancient Etruria or Tuschia (modern Tuscany); but there is a modern Etruria in the English district known as the Potteries. "*Staffordshire ware*" is an interesting expression; for while we never lose sight of the local allusion, the manufacture is sufficiently described. Ordinary porcelain is called *china*, because the best kinds were brought from China; and the commoner sort of earthenware is called *delf*, because brought from Delft, in Holland. *Sèvres china* is a double geographical expression, indicating a rare and beautiful kind of porcelain, manufactured at Sèvres, in France.

The *artesian* well is imitated from those at Artois, in France; *arabesque* indicates the Arabian mode of ornamentation; and a *cremona* is a violin manufactured at Cremona, in Italy. The practice of *japanning* was introduced from Japan; *polonies* are sausages from Bologna; and watches having been invented at Nuremburg, in Germany, were known, during their early history, partly from their shape and size, as *Nuremburg eggs*.

IX.—PECULIAR WORDS.

Near the modern town Cherson, on the Black Sea, was the ancient Chersonesus, now the Crimea. It is, however, a peninsula, and hence this term became generalized, even in ancient times, so that *chersonese*† means a peninsula. In like manner, mountains in general are called *Alps* in certain circumstances, and we speak of *Alpine* solitudes. From the Delta

* "He hath an *argosy* bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies: I understand, more—
"over, upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England."

SHAKSP.—*Merchant of Venice*.

† The tyrant of the *Chersonese*
Was Freedom's best and bravest friend;
That tyrant was Miltiades.

BYRON.

at the mouths of the Nile, which was so called from its resemblance to the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, the alluvial deposit at the mouths of other rivers is called a *delta*. A person shunning *Scylla** falls into *Charybdis*, or runs from one extreme to the other;—the allusion being to the dangers of the strait of Messina.† The river Mæander, in Asia Minor, was celebrated for its tortuous course, and hence the verb to *meander*, with a cognate noun and adjective. From Volcano, in the Lipari isles, where Vulcan was supposed to have a foundry, *volcano* comes to denote a burning mountain.‡ The Cimmericians, of Scythia, were supposed to inhabit a country where, from local causes, the sun was rarely seen, and thus we procure the expression *cimmerian* gloom.

A prison in which life and comfort are little regarded is called a *bastile*, from the Bastile formerly destroyed in Paris; a borough prison is usually a *bridewell*, for reasons already assigned; and from Bethlehem Hospital, which was appropriated to lunatics, and commonly called “Bedlam,” the term “*bedlam*” is used to denote any house for the insane. From the fish-market in Bilingsgate, London, we derive the term *bilingsgate*, meaning abusive language such as is common there; and a seductive mode of persuasion, called *blarney*, is said to be acquired at Blarney Castle, in the south of Ireland. The local term *scullavogue* (to murder), is derived from Scullabogue barn in Wexford, which was burnt in 1798, with the prisoners it contained.

The purgative root called *jalap* comes from Xalapa, in Mexico; and

* “When I shun *Scylla*, your father, I fall into *Charybdis*, your mother.”
SHAKSP.—*Merchant of Venice*.

† Dire *Scylla* there, a scene of horror forms,
And here *Charybdis* fills the deep with storms;
When the tide rushes from her rumbling caves,
The rough rock roars, tumultuous boil the waves.
POPE.—*Homer's Odyssey*.

It hisses and seethes, it welters and boils,
As when water is spurted on fire,
And skyward the spray agonizingly toils,
And flood over flood sweeps higher and higher,
While the foam, with a stunning and horrible sound
Breaks its white way through the waters around.

MANGAN.—*Schiller*.

‡ In Cycyle is the Mount Ethna, . . . and the *Wlcanes*, that ben evermore brennyng
. . . and Men seyn, that the *Wlcanes* ben Weyes of Helle.—MAUNDEVILLE.

sterling, as applied to coin, is taken from the *Easterlings**—viz., the Prussians and Pomeranians, who taught working in gold and silver. The *morris-dance*† of former times was introduced from Morocco, the performers being often dressed in imitation of Moors; and *troy weight* is so named from Troyes, in France, where it was employed at the large fairs of former times. From Spa, in the Netherlands, mineral springs in general are called *spas*; Seidlitz, in Bohemia, gives us the word *seidlitz*, as applied to a medicinal draught; and *seltzer* water (properly “selters” water) is derived from Lower Selters, near Mayence. *Sal-ammoniac* was originally procured in the north of Africa, near the temple of Jupiter Ammon; the jointed or *German flute* was introduced from Germany; and *Vauxhall slices*, remarkable for their thinness, were characteristic of Vauxhall gardens, near London. The colour *prussian blue* was first made at Berlin; and hydrocyanic acid, obtained from it, was thence called *prussic acid*.

The genuine *eau-de-cologne* is manufactured at Cologne; and the *Douay Bible* was printed in 1610, at Douay, in France. A *pharos* is a light-house, so called from that at Pharos, near Alexandria.—The *Salique* law is derived from the river Sala,‡ the original seat of the Franks;—and by it “the crown cannot descend from the lance to the distaff.”—A member of Parliament is said to accept the *Chiltern Hundreds*§ when he resigns, the term

* “*Annales vero nostri a Germanis Danie vicinis, (quos ab orientali hinc situ etiam hodiè Easterlings appellamus,) deducunt.*”—SPERMANN. A curious derivation is given in the Dictionary of John De Garlande. “*Trapezete numerant... sterlingos* “*a sto stas, et lingo, -is, quasi lingens statum hominis.*”

† “*Many who indulge in these sports cover their faces with soot, and assume a foreign species of garb, that they may appear to be Moors; and they are thought to have come from a country very remote, and to have brought this rare species of amusement with them.*”

‡ *In terram Salicam, mulieres nè succedant.*

No female
Should be inheritrix in Salique land;
Which Salique, as I said, 'twixt Elbe and Sala,
Is at this day in Germany call'd Meissen.

SHAKSP.—*Henry V.*

§ “*An acceptance of ‘the Chiltern Hundreds’ is a form which has no other meaning than that the Member accepting resigns his seat. No office, having emolument attached, can be conferred by the Crown on a Member of the House of Commons without his thereby vacating his seat, and it is only by obtaining office that a Member can rid himself of the duties which any body of constituents may impose even without his consent; the Crown, therefore, for the convenience of the House at large, is always ready to confer on any Member ‘the Stewardship of her Majesty’s Chiltern Hundreds, ‘the Stewardship of the Manor of Poynings, of East Hendred and Northstead, or the ‘Escheatorship of Munster,’ sinecures which he continues to hold till some other Member solicits a similar accommodation.*”

DOD’S *Parliamentary Companion.*

being derived from the Chiltern hills, in Buckinghamshire.—The phrase to “run the *gauntlet*” is a corruption from “run the Ghent loop,” a sort of military punishment which originated at Ghent.—Du Cange tells us that *alcantara* was a name for a stone bridge, from one at Alcantara, in Spain.

There is often a duplicate process visible in the derivation of words of this class, the geographical term being first transferred to a person, and from him to a thing. Thus Brougham, in Westmoreland, gives title to a peer, and from him again is derived *brougham*, indicating a particular kind of carriage. Another carriage is called a *clarence*, from the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.), whose title was derived from the district of Clarence, surrounding Clare Castle, in Suffolk. Bridgewater, in Somerset, gave title to a dynasty of earls, the last of whom, the Rev. Francis Henry Egerton, procured the publication of works known as the *Bridgewater* treatises. Another earl derived his title from Orrery, in the County of Cork, and a curious planetarium, dedicated to him, was known by this name. Since that time, *orrery* has been a well-known common noun. An earl who derived his title from Sandwich, in Kent, was fond of eating thin slices of meat between similar pieces of bread; hence the word *sandwich*, which in common with the foregoing words, has the advantage of being a new term for a new thing. Pinchbeck, in Lincolnshire, gave name to a man who invented the yellow metal *pinchbeck*, formerly a substitute for gold. Finally, the *mazarine* hood, like *mazarine* blue, was derived, by a somewhat similar process, from the Duchess de Mazarin.

X.—EXCEPTIONS.

It must not be inferred, from all the preceding, that every local term, associated with any particular object, expresses the origin of that object, or the source from which it reached us. On the contrary, foreign names are sometimes given from mere caprice, or from ignorance, or from the corruptions of language; and thus the inquirer is liable to be led into occasional mistakes. For example, sealing-wax was originally called *Spanish* wax,

* When a soldier had been convicted of theft, or any similar offence, the men of his Company were arranged in two rows, each armed with a strong rod. The culprit was stripped to the waist, and obliged to run from one end of the lane to the other, each man striking him, if possible, as he passed. In our own days there is no mode of escape left to the offender. In the armies of Austria and Russia, a man walks backward slowly, with a bayonet presented to the culprit's breast; and the latter is thus obliged to move slowly on, the blows descending on him thick and heavy from both sides.

because a material employed in making it was called *Portugal* wax. "The expression *Spanish* wax is of little more import than the words *Spanish green, Spanish* flies, *Spanish* grass, *Spanish* reed, and several others; as "it was formerly customary to give to all new things, particularly those "which excited wonder, the appellation of 'Spanish.'"* It is on this principle, no doubt, that we speak of *Indian* ink, *Indian*-rubber, *Indian* corn, or *Turkish* corn, and *Spanish* juice.

A few words of this class require special notice. The domestic *turkey* appears, from its name, to be a native of the Turkish dominions; yet it has been well ascertained that it reached Europe† from America. The impression, however, that it was a native of some part of the Eastern Hemisphere shows itself in various forms. Sir John Chardin, while calling the fowls "poulets d' *Inde*" and "coqs d' *Inde*," declares that they have come from the West Indies; and before 1600 they were spoken of as "*Guiney* cocks." In France they are still called *dindons* (i.e., d'*Inde*), and in German, *kalekutischer*, as if from Calicut. An English writer learning that "capons "of grease" (viz., fat capons‡) were served up at an entertainment in 1467, gravely infers that they were capons of *Greecs*, and of course *Turkeys*!—The word *gin* is sometimes synonymous with *geneva*, and it is therefore inferred that gin comes from Geneva, also that the best kinds are manufactured there. But there is in reality no geographical reference; language, in its capricious changes, having only shown a coincidence with a well known term. The original word *geneva*, of which *gin* is merely an abbreviation, is formed from the French "*Genevre*," meaning the juniper or berries which impart the peculiar flavour and quality.—The vegetable known as the *jerusalem* artichoke illustrates also this curious coincidence in language. It has nothing to do with Jerusalem ancient or modern; but is the tuber of a species of sun-flower, originally called by its proper and

* Beckmann's History of Inventions, by Francis and Griffith; vol. i., p. 146.

† Hops and *turkeys*, carp and beer,
Came into England all in one year.

Pop. Rhyme, temp. Hen. VIII.

‡ "Capons of grease; 3 of a dish;" from a wedding dinner, previous to 1390.

Will Scadlocke he kild a bucke,
And Midge he kild a doe;
And Little Iohn kild a hart of grease
Five hundreth foot him fro.

RITSON, *Robin Hood*.

descriptive name. In Italian, it is *girasole* ("turn sol"*) which is thus incorrectly Anglicised into a geographical term.†—The name *gypsy* appears to import that the people came from Egypt; but there is very strong evidence that they are of Asiatic origin, from Hindostan or some country adjoining it on the west. They try to perpetuate the popular error by saying "our ancestors built the Pyramids," which of course is untrue. Bailey's description of them in his Dictionary deserves to be quoted, "A crew of pilfering stragglers, who under pretence of being *Egyptians*, "pretend to tell people their fortunes." From them is derived *gibberish*, as if gypsy language.‡—The origin of the word *tweed*, as indicating a peculiar kind of woollen cloth, is curious; and with a notice of it we shall conclude the present series of examples. A Glasgow merchant wrote to his correspondent in London, "we send some *tweels* for your approval, &c.;" meaning twills or twilled cloths, but illustrating a well-known Scotticism, in which the sound of *e* is adopted for that of short *i*. The answer was, "your *Tweeds* will suit us very well." Again he wrote, saying, "the cloths sent were 'tweels,' not 'tweeds;'" and to this the reply was, "'tweeds' or 'tweels,' we adopt both the name and the cloth." It therefore has not, and never had, any connexion with the river Tweed.

* The old English word *turnsole* is almost obsolete, but it was formerly in frequent use, when the plant was employed as a vegetable dye. In an ancient work it is said,—

Ginger, cinnamon, grains, sugar, *turnsoles*,—for lords a good making.

A poetical allusion to the plant explains all its names:—

The sunflower turns to its God when he sets,
The same looks that it gave when he rose.

MOORE, *Irish Melodies*.

+ Sometimes a correct significant expression is superseded by an incorrect one, and apparently without necessity. For example, the ancient Roman pavements were often in formal patterns, which were sometimes of great beauty; and as these harmonised to the eye as music does to the ear, they were called in mediæval times *mosaic* pavements. Perhaps the applicability of the term was not apparent, for in modern times they are spoken of as *mosaic*; and we speak of *mosaic* work and *mosaics*.—"Musaikè work is a kind of ornament, made in picture with little square stones, like dies of all colours, set together with certaine fine cyment upon a wall or floore, so that the formes of things be therewith pourtrayed and expressed as though they were paynted. Also it is more durable, then anie other kind of paynting; by reason that neither by weather, wearing nor washing, the colour can be taken away, which hath the thickness of the little dies wherewith the work is made. Of this kind of work is little in England; howbeit I have seen it, especially upon Church-floores before altares, as is to be seene before the high altar at Westminster; although it be but grosse. In Italie it is almost every where, and in most churches to be mett."—*Noel, qu. by Junius*.

† *Gibberish* quasi *Aegyptius* (sermo). Qualis erat illorum Saracenorum qui quoque Aegyptii errabundi nuncupantur. Quem Angli vocant etiam "gibble gabble."—MINSHAW. Gypsy, "counterfeit tongue and filching vagabond."—SHERWOOD.

XI.—NAMES OF PERSONS.

The tendency of places to impart their names, is illustrated not only in the designation of *things* but in that of *persons*. Family names or surnames are in reality common nouns, containing under them groups, classes, families, and individuals, with resemblances and differences like any other objects of classification. Now we have the surnames *England, Ireland, Scotland, English, Welsh, Manx, &c.*, originally given to persons from those countries respectively, but not at the time resident in them. From the north to the south, places have imparted family names; but it may be sufficient to mention *Aberdeen, Montrose, Glasgow, Paisley, Ayr, Carlisle, Lancaster, Preston, Chester, Stafford, Bath, Hastings*. Thousands of the proper names which find a place in our directories, are derived from places within the British Islands. In some instances they indicated, and still indicate, possession; in others mere residence; but in the multitude of cases, both these ideas have been lost, and they are merely distinctive. In England, the names from townships are most common,—especially in the North-western shires, as Hopwood of Hopwood, Sefton from Sefton, Fazakerley from Fazakerley. In Scotland, where the civil divisions of townships are almost or altogether unknown, the family names are derived from other local terms, of which there are very many. In numerous instances, families have possessed the same property and occupied the same site since surnames were imparted, that is to say from about the twelfth century. In Scotland, the coincidence of a proprietor's name with that of his estate is indicated in a peculiar way. Thus Dunbar of Dunbar, or Wemyss of Wemyss is described as “of that *ilk*,” viz., of that *same* (name).

In some historic instances, antecedent or not to the period of surnames, the geographical allusion is obvious; as Dionysius of *Halicarnassus*, Diana of *Poitiers*, Harry of *Monmouth*. In others it is partially so, as Geoffrey de *Bouillon*, William of *Malmsbury*, Simon de *Montfort*. In others, again, it is scarcely distinguishable; as John of *Gaunt* (Ghent), Judas *Iscariot* (from Kerioth*), Thomas of *Ercildoun* (Earlston). In the course of time, the distinctive particles *de, of, &c.*, were dropped; and De Clifford became Clifford, De Bois became Boys, De Tournay, Turney, &c.; yet we are familiar with Anthony A'Wood in the past, and Gilbert Abbot A'Beckett

* This derivation is not universally admitted; it is given here on the authority of Bishop Pearce.

in the present. Many of these family names, again, were imparted to places in Ireland during the seventeenth century; to places in the United States during the eighteenth; and they have been given to places in British America, Australia, and New Zealand during the present century.

Thus, the reciprocal influence goes forward, Geography being, as it were, both active and passive. These names, like the sounds in an echo, have their incidence and reflection; the object on which they fall, and from which they are transmitted, being at one time the surface of the earth, and at others a human being or a natural or artificial object. And though, like the echo, these sounds wax fainter in the distance, their characteristics are preserved, and their notes are still distinguishable. In amusing myself with their examination, I venture to believe that I have gathered and arranged some important and curious information; but the point for which I think the remarks particularly valuable is, their suggestiveness.
