

four surnames which are derived from the maternal side of the house, and are, therefore, worthy of special notice. Such are Brewster, Webster, and Baxter, which are the Anglo-Saxon feminine forms of Brewer, Weaver and Baker.

For a long time it had been usual to designate an individual by the place of his nativity or residence—a custom which resulted in the adoption of such family names as French, Scott, Welsh, English, Dane, Burgoyne (from Burgundy), Cornish and Cornwallis (from Cornwall) and a number of others. Among the familiar family names that correspond with those of English towns and parishes are Kent, York, Chichester, Lincoln, Carlisle, Humingdon, Wells, Washington, Putnam, Hurst, Buchanan, Preston and Bancroft. A great many of this character (and they are numbered by the score) were originally the names of baronial estates, which names the barons adopted as surnames, and every one who owned land followed their example. Those who were not landowners were obliged to content themselves with less aristocratic titles. Hence John who lived by the brook, became known as John of the brook, which was eventually reduced to the surnominal form of John Brook. So, also, Richard who lived at the end of town, became Richard Townsend, and some individual who had his home at the bottom of the hill became the founder of the family of Underhill. Besides those which will naturally suggest themselves—as Hill, Street, Church, Lane, Stone, Field, Wood, Marsh, Moore, Underwood—there are many of our surnames which have come from the same source, but their significance would not now be apparent, by reason of the fact that the names as common nouns have become generally obsolete. Some of the best-known ones are Cobb, meaning originally a harbor; Chase, a hunting ground; Beck, a little brook; Cross, one who dwelt by the cross-roads; Fleet, a small creek; Foote, the bottom of a hill; Hallowell, a holy well; Foss, a ditch; Hurst, a wood; Knapp, the top of a hill; Lynch, a small, hanging thicket; Shaw, a small copse; Slade, a valley; Hatch, a floodgate; Hyde, as much land as could be cultivated with one plow; Holmes, a flat island; Hope a vale; Holt, a small forest; Lee or Leigh, a pasture; Penn, the summit of a hill; Peel, a pool; Pollard, a chopped tree; Ross, a morass; Thorpe, a village; Weller, a gulf; Worth, a fort or farm. Sometimes the word "man" or the suffix "er," meaning the same thing, was added to nouns of this kind, as is seen in such names as Parkman, Parker, Bridger, Becker.

The origin of the names of places or towns from which surnames have been adopted is also of interest as showing the initial derivation of such family names. It will be noticed that a number of names of this class end in "ton." This was the old Anglo-Saxon word for place, and was frequently used in conjunction with a qualifying noun, for the purpose of giving a name to an estate or residence. Thus, if a place had a clayey soil it was named Clayton; if it were stony it was called Stanton. If it had never before been occupied it was given the name of Newton. If it were remarkable for its pastures it became Leighton.

At the time family names came into use the shops of the merchants and storekeepers were not numbered as they are at the present day, but were known and

distinguished by their signs, which were suspended at the front doors and bore all manner of devices; the subjects embracing all the known species of animals, vegetables, birds, flowers, fishes and insects. It was, therefore, customary to refer to a shopkeeper as John of the Bear, or Dick of the Swan, or Tom of the Lily, and as may be imagined, these appellations were readily converted into family names, which have come down to us as Bear, Hogg, Buck, Hart, Bull, Fox, Wolf, Colt, Hare, Todd, (a fox), Beaver, Lyon and others of zoological character. Among those derived from signs bearing figures of birds are Swan, Peacock, Sparrow, Nightingale, Wren, Bird, Heron, Dove, Partridge, Cock, Finch, Hawk, Howlett, Corbet, (raven), Crane and Drake. Those coming from fish are not so numerous, but are, nevertheless, in evidence, the most familiar one being that of Fish itself and its ancient form of Fisk, besides which we have Burt, Chubb, Haddock, Herring, Pike, Perch and Whiting, and no doubt others which will occur to the reader. Grubb and Emmet, with several more, are named after insects. From the vegetables, trees, fruits and flowers we have, in addition to many others, Bean, Broome, Clover, Birch, Ash, Hawthorn, Hazel, Plum, Cherry, Apple, Lemmon, Pear, Peach, Flower, Nettle, Weed, Tree, Bush, Vine, Plant, Budd, Branch and Root.

These shop signs bore other devices besides the kinds recited, and from those of a miscellaneous character we have the names of Bell, Hammer, Coates, Mentell, Jewel, Potts, Pipes and others easily recognized.

A great many sobriquets remained fixed as family names, the most important perhaps, being those which referred to the color of the hair or complexion, from which we get our well-known names of Brown, Black, Gray, White, Reed (red), Motley, Fairfax (light) and Blount (fair). Others again were those given out of compliment or derision for some personal attainment or characteristic, as Armstrong, Mitchell (great), Singer, Whistler, Eatwell, Swindells, Strong, Weak, Small, Longfellow, Crookshanks, Longman, Whitehead, Broadhead, Swift, Sober, Noble Harcy, Doolittle, Goodman, Badman, Snell (agile), Darling, Long, Short, Bachelor, Savage, Wise, Sweet, Moody, and so on. To this list should be added those of King, Queen, Pope, Bishop, Knight, Prior, Abbot, Squire, Earl, Duke, Baron, Lord, Prince and others of a similar kind, which were originaly imposed upon individuals because of their supposed resemblance to the dignitaries represented by these names, or because of services they may have rendered them. Then there are those which do not come within any particular category, but owe their origin to some circumstance or event, which the name no doubt appropriately suggests, but which has been lost to posterity: Joy, Bliss, Morrow, Winter, March, May, Weeks and so on.

A large number of the family names of this country are derived from the French and German and other languages and do not, of course, suggest any meaning to an English-speaking person; but a translation of them will show that they have a similar origin, and have been formed on the same principles as the English surnames. Besides these, however, there are a great many family

names which are apparently without any significance. These are such as have been so modified and changed that their original sense and form have been destroyed. When we consider the former laxity of orthographical rules, by which a person was privileged to write his name in several different ways, and the inability of the masses to read and write, we may wonder that so many names have come down through the centuries as well preserved as they are. Even in our own day people are wont to change the spelling of their names, and it is therefore not difficult to understand, for example, how the ancient name of Barnham, meaning the field of the barn, has become changed to Barnum, which does not mean anything. So, likewise, the name of Latimer is a corruption of the old surname Latiner, signifying a reader of Latin. In the same way the family of Littleton as Lyttleton. Through errors of pronunciation we have the name of Sellenger, from the good old St. Leger, and our Buckett of today would scarcely recognize its former name of Boquet. By a similar process of distortion the ancient family name of Seven Oaks is now lost in the abbreviated form of Shooks, while Books is all that remains of By-the-Oaks. These are but a few of the very many instances that might be cited in illustration of the manner in which names have become altered and unrecognizable, but they serve to show that all names, however odd or meaningless they may appear, have had a reasonable and significant origin.—Ladies' Home Journal.

INTERESTING FROM DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark,
March 16th, 1897.

Although these northern lands have yielded rich harvests to the Gospel reapers in years gone by, and the present has been characterized frequently a received baptism, Elder Enoch Jorgensen, of Ephraim, performing the ordinance. We have another date set for baptism, next week, when we expect to add a few more souls to the fold. Thus the Lord is blessing the labors of His servants and crowning their efforts with success.

There is one thing, however, that we meet wherever we go, and I would like to call the attention of the returned missionaries and emigrated Saints to this subject. In visiting among the people, both Saints and strangers, the general complaint is that their relatives and friends who have gone to Zion, have failed to keep their promises to write, and nothing has been heard of them except in an indirect way, possibly, now and then. Wrong impressions are created by this neglect. Some get the idea that their friends are unhappy and in a poor state, hence do not write. Some strangers even go so far as to infer that there must be some truth in the old charges made against us, that letters were intercepted if the contents were not satisfactory to a committee of censors. It causes the Elders much labor to remove the effects of these things, and the tendency is to lessen the faith and confidence in our people, and hamper the progress of the work of God in these lands. Therefore, dear brethren and sisters, who have gone to Zion, if you knew how anxiously your letters are looked for here, how much good they could do, if written in the proper spirit,