

and Price. A century back it was not uncommon to hear of Bevan—ap Jones—ap Thomas—ap Griffith—ap Morgan—ap Rhys. If a man were in a hurry, his patience would be taxed in listening to these endless genealogical combinations. A church, in Llangollen, is said to be dedicated to a "*St. Collen—ap—Gwynnawg—ap—Clynulawg—ap—Cowrda—ap—Caradoc—Freichfras—ap—Llyn—Merin—ap—Einion—Yrh—ap—Cunedda—Wledig.*" If the proverbial Dutchman can match this he deserves a medal. As a burlesque upon this custom, some one with waggish tendencies, spoke of *Cheese*, as,—

"Adam's own cousin-german by its birth,
Ap—curds—ap—milk—ap—cow—ap grass—ap—Earth!"

The old Romans, however, had their family names, into which they were born, and which they transmitted to their descendants. Most of our modern nations travel upon the same lines. You and I, dear reader, have, at least, two names—let us be grateful if we have been let off with so light a burden. One of these awaited us, when we arrived here, and is one in which the other members of the family have a co-partnership. The other was given to us in baptism, and is our exclusive property in the household.

This system of double names is exceedingly convenient, and the wonder is that it was not adopted in the earlier ages. The Japanese, Chinese, Romans, Lapps, and a few tribes under the great Czar's rule, made use of the surname; but before the tenth or eleventh century, the practice was unknown among other nations. And, if we are to credit the stories of travellers, there are not a few people, even now, who manage to get along without it. If you visit some of the South Sea Islands, you will meet some who, as a mark of friendship, will readily exchange names with you, abandoning their own names for ever. Pliny tells us of a strange tribe of savages, of Mount Atlas, who had no names at all. The statement has been doubted, and no wonder, for it is difficult to understand how any people, savage or civilized, can get on without a name of some kind.

We have no trace of either Bible or family names in Britain, before the Norman Conquest. There were the Harolds, Edgars, Alfreds, Agathas, &c., but nothing further. Edward II, it is said, passed an Act to compel the use of family names; probably he was driven by necessity to do so. When the gentlemanly and chivalrous William arrived, he not only stole the country, but swept away the names of