

fied to call a thing by its name, has never been satisfactorily supplied. Two irreverent and vulgar substitutes have recently been found for it, both in the press and in conversation—in "baptize" and "christen." These two words ought to be reserved for the solemn ceremony of naming a child of Christian parents at the font, or of receiving a convert into the Christian Church, but of late years both have been indiscriminately and most improperly used for naming anything—from a battle to a ship, a street, or even a dog or a horse. For instance in commenting upon the question of the removal of the grates to the ladies' gallery in the House of Commons, the *Times* in a leading article remarked (July 12, 1869): "The grate question of the ladies' gallery, as Mr. Lowe christened it." That horses are christened may be learned from a writer in the *Daily Telegraph*, October 7, 1882, who tells the world that subsequent to the great Civil War in the United States, "many a favourite hunter was christened after Stonewall Jackson." Even stones are christened, according to a writer in the same newspaper, October 22, 1882: "This quaint, strange fossil, commonly called thunderbolt, which is to be found everywhere in all theoolitic and cretaceous strata, from the lowest lias to the upper chalk, resembles nothing so much as a large tenpenny nail or slate pin, and its appearance is sufficiently indicated by its name, which, in effect, signifies arrow-head. The Germans called the strange object *Pfeilstein* and *Donnerstein*, and the French christen it *piere de foudre*." "Weights and measures" may also be christened according to the *Echo*, May 25, 1880: "On a recent visit of the weights and measures inspector the unfortunate standards were observed, and Dr. Siemens was summoned in due form and mulcted in two marks (2s.)—a warning to all philosophers

who may have weights not properly christened by the authorities." A writing of a fashionable hairdresser in Paris, the *Globe*, November, 1881, went so far as to baptize the action of his scissors: "His place has become the fashionable shaving shop of all Paris and has obtained an almost European reputation. Shaving and hair cutting are a branch of art in his eyes. He studies the dress, appearance, and profession of his sitters, giving instructions to his acolytes who wield the shears, condescending at times to add the finishing touches. *He has baptized each snip of the scissors with some peculiar name.*" Even the "club" of a savage, according to the *Daily News*, February 25, 1879, was christened "The great hero of the Zulus, before they knew Europeans, was a warrior who christened his club 'the watcher of the fords.'" The *Globe*, April 10, 1879, speaks of the "christening of our streets,"—which certainly, if it could be effected with success upon many of the male and female frequenters, would be a consummation devoutly to be wished. "It is quite surprising what a little use our modern Ediles make of history when they christen or rechristen the streets and squares of our great cities."

*Ilk*.—This word has been borrowed from the Lowland Scotch—and signifies the same—or of the same place—as in Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Forbes of Forbes, Macnab of Macnab, etc. In these phrases it signifies that the man's name is the same as that of his estate, and *ilk* is substituted, to avoid a repetition, as Mackintosh of that *ilk*, Forbes of that *ilk*, Macnab of that *ilk*—i.e., of that same. Modern writers in the press, ignorant of the true meaning of "ilk," and supposing that it signifies of the same kind, sort, description, or genus, continually make use of it in a sense that would make Mackintosh of that *ilk* either laugh or shudder. Thus the