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What Shall We Call The Baby

Written for The Western Home Monthly by Olive L Reamy

Y the way, have you named of the young mother. Named him!" exclaimed the young mother. "Why, we've only just as bad with its near proximity of t's; begun. It has taken us a week to go as and Louise Eaton has not only the repeare taking the dictionary as a starter. has two accented syllables together. The far as k. You see," she went on, "we We mean to leave no known name unconsidered and ancestors persist in com- the boy. Oliver Eaton is a delight to the ing in to complicate matters. We de- ears. There is no repetition and the acbated a long time last evening over cents are properly placed." James. Fred's father was named James and so was one of my grandfathers, a tense vowel," said Mrs. Hooker, eagerly but teh name is too plain, we had to pursuing the clues offered by her friend. give it up. Really, it is a joy to be able to do something for our boy withany of the rest of the meddlers."

The first caller smiled and held up a protesting hand.

"Don't anathematize the meddlers, my dear, for I've a suspicion that I shall join that class. I certainly shall unless you tongues than most persons do when bestowing names on their offspring."

The young mother looked puzzled, the lips. Try them several times to get "What have ears and tongues to do with my meaning." naming children?" she asked.

"Nothing, my dear, positively nothing, if one may judge by the names one hears, but they should have a whole lot to do with it. Don't tell me that you never rebelled against your maiden name, Mabel Bolton."

"Rebel! Why, no; I liked it so much that I was tempted to turn suffragist, or socialist or something of that sort, so I'd have an excuse for not changing it when I married. What's wrong with it, pray

"The same that is wrong with my

name, Esther Torrey. Suppose now that you had been called Esther Bolton and I, Mabel Torrey. Don't your ears and tongue thank you when you make the exchange? Just speak the names yourself and notice the difference when you don't have bel bol and ter tor in juxtaposition."

The young mother spoke the names in their original combinations and then in the suggested transposed form. that is better, isn't it? I never thought

of it, though. "No, that's the trouble, but it's time people began thinking, and you might as well be a pioneer in the art, so please begin now.'

"But I don't know how. Will Frederick do? This dictionary business is only an amusement, you know. I've meant all the time to call my son for his

"Ask your ears. How does Frederick Hooker sound? Isn't it rather a-corker? Bolton Hooker would do better, but that has faults.

the matter with that?" asked the young "Yes, I see," she said. mother protestingly. "I don't seem able

to grasp your idea at all." "Well, the particular fault in that combination is monotony, the repetition Esther. Please go on." in the second name of the vowels in the first. The long o and the oo require to the Eatons? I noticed that it was nearly the same position of the organs occupied." of speech and the obscure o and e of the second syllables are approximately the They have two children, Ethel and Percisame. Besides that, both names have val." two syllables with the accent on the is much better balanced."

never knew you had such wisdom in your two-syllable Christian name gives a head. Where did you get it?" two-syllable Christian name gives a more pleasing combination. Next come

"Oh, it has just grown through obser- Ruth, Muriel, and Reginald Green, the vation. It was a fancy at first and then first two good and the last bad." I built a foundation of phonetics to sup-

"Well, if I've run into a whole bunch gether." of unanticipated rules, please hurl them at me at once. What's wrong with, let sonants. Give the sound, not the name, me see: let's take the families in this of the letter p; that is, start to say put, neighborhood; what's wrong with Nettie but stop after the p. Yes, and now give Eaton?

Hooker. "Why, yes; there are too many vocalized weak. There is the same differis and n's. I suppose."

"Correct, but that is not all. The first him yet? asked the first caller name ends with a vowel and the second begins with a similar vowel sound, always a fault. Margaret Eaton is nearly tition of a tense vowel against it, but it

> "I don't understand what you mean by "Speak long e," was the reply, "and ob-

serve the position of your tongue and out consulting the doctor, the nurse or lips. Can't you feel that they become more or less tense?" "Yes, I can now," answered Mrs.

Hooker. "Now speak slowly long a and long i. That's right. You see that each ends with the same approach of the tongue to the show more regard for human ears and roof of the mouth that you have in e. Long u begins with that position and merges into the oo sound, which purses

Mrs. Hooker gave the names of the



A hardy little Indian maid.

"Bolton Hooker! Why, Esther, what's vowels mentioned slowly and carefully.

"Now speak on, us, and awe and notice how the lips and tongue relax."

"Yes, that's so. Oh, this is fascinating,

"Who has moved into the house next

"A family by the name of Gordon.

Miss Torrey uttered the names first. Really, your plain James Hooker thoughtfully before pronouncing her verdict of, "Both good, but the boy's name "M-m; that's interesting," mused the is better because of the accent. Where young mother. "I begin to see, but I the surname has two syllables, a one or

> "Why, I should think Ruth faulty. There are two one-syllable names to-

"Then let me give you a lesson on conthe sound of b. Do you observe that the "Can't you tell that yourself?" asked only difference lies in the use, or nonuse, of the vocal cords? We will call the "Nettic Eaton," slowly repeated Mrs. vocalized sounds strong and the nonence between t and d, k and hard g, s

and z, thin an ized, bu phoneti vowels make o names, There s in one ter, jus picture. g and Muriel effort o ing eith trary, h d. and with th must n tering t "Oh, really.

Herman Louise syllable "No, the m the rem weak. much

Moulto a high Roger prefer ick Mo "Oh, than t vieve, The fir v's and

"Yes

"The

even v cause boy's good." "Rig Contin "Th Joseph faulty first, t

"Thi "We and th nants "Ye Eugen