

coloured *leather* used for the purpose.—The low Americanism *loafer* is a curtailed form of the German *herum-lauser*, one who vagabondizes about (*herum*, circum, and *laufen*, to run.) Some such word existed in the English of former days. In the Play of "Sir John Oldcastle," attributed occasionally to Shakespeare, the term *leufter* occurs. (See Act v., Sc. 2.) The annotators cannot with certainty explain it. They suggest that it may be for *leuterer*, i.e. loiterer. It is put in the mouth of an Irish character. In Spanish there is a term equivalent in sense, and somewhat similar in sound—*gaglioffo*. It denotes, first, a strolling French pilgrim to the shrine of St. Iago, where, for such persons was provided a dole called *Galli offula*; and, secondly, any vagrant character. *Gaglioffo* may have crept into Ireland and England from Spain.

The ecclesiastical expression *ember-day* unexpectedly proves to be Anglicised German. It is thus deduced. Latin *Quatuor tempora*, (i.e., since A.D. 1095, the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after 1st Sund. in Lent, Whitsunday, Sept. 14th and Dec. 13th, respectively), corrupted into *Quatember*. This then in L. G. passes successively into *Kottemper*, *Tamper*, *Tamper-day*, *Ymber-day*, transformed by us, under the influence probably of *dies cineris*, ash-wednesday, into *ember-day*.—By steps somewhat similar an attempt has been made to shew that *Whitsun* in *Whitsun-day* is a descendant of the H. G. barbarism for *pentecost*, viz., *pfingsten*. Corruption, however, as *Whitsun* probably is, it is not proposed to be thus derived. Its orthography in the days of Wycliffe and the early translators, was *Witson* or *Wytson*. Up to about the twelfth century the name of the festival was the same in England as on the Continent; but the technical *Pentecost* then began to be displaced by the vernacular *Witson*—a term understood to be indicative of the season when the first Christian disciples became, in the highest sense, "sons of wit," children of wisdom; some such text as this being glanced at—"vos docebit omnia;" or this, "*sapientia est justificata ab omnibus filiis suis*."—The conversion of *wit* into *white*, and the attributing of the name to the white vestments of neophytes were later popular misapprehensions.

Finally, the word *country*, though not an Anglicised German term, had nevertheless its origin in a transformed Teutonic idiom. Its history is said to be this.—*Gegend*, country or region, is literally that which is *gegen*, over against you. An early Teuton, attempting