

## The Immortality of Surnames.

**B**Y the introduction of the expressive if somewhat cumbersome term Marconigram remarks a contemporary, wireless telegraphy has furnished us with another of those words which perpetuate not only the achievements, but the surnames of distinguished men. When the term "boycott" was first used in 1880, in the sense of that exclusive dealing, that "sending to Coventry" which was being practised on Irish loyalists, and on Captain Boycott in particular, few could have foreseen that the word would be adopted in most European tongues, and that a useful verb and noun would be permanently added to the language. The English statesman who was most intimately concerned with this period of Irish history has enriched our speech by the term Gladstone-bag, the first mention of which appears in one of Miss Braddon's novels (1882). The Italian revolutionary patriot Garibaldi has his name commemorated by a kind of jacket; the hero of the Peninsular campaign gave us those high boots called Wellingtons; and his Prussian ally at Waterloo is remembered by another sort of foot gear, Bluchers. A former Earl Spencer gave us the peculiar short coorcoat which bears his name, and every time we don a waterproof we have the opportunity of remembering, or more probably forgetting the inventor, Charles Mackintosh. The "gamp" carried under the same conditions, provide us with a word which is used only colloqually, perhaps because Sairey Gamp was not a desirable person; but the word "tribby" borrowed of course from Du Maurier's celebrated novel, is passing from the region of slang to that of literature or to be quite correct the word

is not quite unacceptable as applied to a hat, but when used humorously of a daintily shaped foot literary English knows it not. We got our word knickerbocker in a more roundabout manner. The pretended author of Washington Irving's fictions "History of New York" was Diedrich Knickerbocker. It happened that in an edition of this work, illustrated by Cruickshank, Dutchmen were represented in short knee breeches, and the name was subsequently transmitted to the garment having a close resemblance. A table near at hand is inlaid with that arrangement of brass and tortoise shell known as Buhl. Boule—the disguised spelling presumably due to German influence—was a noted wood carver of the time of Louis XIV. A sideboard reminds us of grog, and the curious history of that word. Admiral Vernon who flourished in the days of the Young Pretender, wore a coat of the coarse fibrous material named grogann, and was hence familiarly known by the nickname of "Old Grog." Being of a stingy disposition he used to serve his men with rum or spirit diluted with water, and the name was jocosely given to the unappreciated mixture. At any rate, such is the explanation which the careful editors of the New Oxford Dictionary have felt bound to accept. Negus, which is defined as "a liquor made of wine, water, sugar, and sometimes nutmeg and lemon juice." was first prepared by one Colonel Negus, a worthy of the reign of Anne and George I. In the garden we are overwhelmed by the number of proper names. Omitting those of scientific interest only, we mention but two, dahlia, from the Swedish botanist Dahl, and Camellio, from the