

ally, the names of those heroes were given to the children. In their estimation, one half of the baptismal names in England were heathen, and the other half were Popish, so both must go. The work of obliteration followed in the track of the New Bible. As it forced its way, the saints of the calendar gave place to the Sarahs, Rebeccas, and Deborahs of the Old Testament. The orthodox visits of measles and whooping cough no longer troubled Cecilia, Guy and Rodger, but made Caleb, Joshua and Miriam, the objects of attack. "As for the twelve sons of Jacob, they could all have answered to their names in the Dames' Schools On the village green, every prophet from Isaiah to Malachi, might be seen of an evening playing leap-frog, unless, indeed, Zephaniah was stealing apples in the Garth." *Cain* and *Abel* often did duty for twins, and *Kerenhappuch* fell, at the proper moment, upon the ear of the officiating divine. These rough old parents seemed to go about the business of selecting names, as if the salvation of their children depended upon the ugliest, most offensive and most unpronounceable that could be found. *Habakkuk* is bad enough for any one to carry through life; but what can be said of the parent who saddles an infant of eight days, with *Talitha-Cumi*; *Eli-lama-Sabac thani*; *Zaphnathpaneah*; or *Mahershalalhasbas*? The clergymen, who fostered these outrages upon euphony and taste, deserved to be sent to a new brain factory.

What were known as "grace names" and "aspiration names" were very popular. *Faith, Hope, Charity, Honor, Wisdom, Zeal, Temperance, Repentance, Experience, and Patience*, are found in the list. But how could poor *Patience* endure a brother whom she was bound to call *Fight-the-good-fight-of-faith*? or *New-Agag-in-pieces-before-the-Lord*? The head of the "Rump Parliament," *Praise-God-Barebones*, sounds strange; but his two brothers, *Jesus-came-into-the-world-to-save*, and *If-Jesus-had-not-died-for-thee-thou-hadst-been damned*, were deeply to be pitied. *Live-Well, Do-Good, Help-on-High, and Be-Thankful*, were not so bad. If one may judge from their family nomenclature, these Puritans were a pessimistic and melancholy people. Imagine a lot of jolly, romping youngsters, named *Ichabod*; *Lamentations*; *Benoni*; *Bazluth*. Can this melancholy be accounted for on the ground that they were driven into peevish sullenness by the cruelties and indignities they were called to suffer? Again, the Bible was certainly an interesting Book to them, but it was not honored by the selection of such names as *Julus, Ananias, Bathsheba, Delilah* and *Tamer*, for their children.

* *Vide* Bardsley's "Curiosities of Puritan Nomenclature."