

than the Ten Commandments. The aristocrat of old France in aping London "Society," has adopted this custom among the rest, and has coined a new word to describe it, viz., *fiveoclaquer*, i. e., Five o'clock. But a Frenchman, whose vanity and wealth had outstripped his education, rashly ventured to use the word upon an invitation card. He wished to invite his friends for *nine* o'clock; but wrote "*On fiveocloquera à neuf heures*"! There is a touch of humour in it when translated,—“We shall take *five* o'clock at *nine* o'clock.”

Letters also have taken new sounds. The Norman *K*, for instance, has softened into the Anglo-Saxon *ch*: hence, *cild*, with its hard *c*, has become our modern *child*: *Kirk* may still hold sway in North Britain, but it is church on the south of the Tweed. We have still *gh*, but its modern pronunciations would puzzle the translator of King James' version. We still write *borough*, but it is only boro' when we speak; we convert flour into *dough*, and call it do. We still *laugh* and *cough*, but do so with an *f* instead of *gh*: the Scot, however, has no thought of giving up his *nicht*. Then, again, even an Irishman would be laughed at, in these days, if he attempted to rhyme 'sea, with *obey* or *away*. But the rhyme was perfect, when Watts wrote:—

“But timorous mortals start and shrink
To cross the narrow *sea*,
And linger shivering on the brink,
Afraid to launch *away*.”

And Pope:—

“Here, thou, great Anna, whom three realms *obey*:
Dost sometimes counsel take, and sometimes *tea*.”

It is not the least of man's distinctions that he is a Nomenclator, or name-giver. When the Eternal caused the nameless creatures of the new world, to pass before Adam, the head of our race gave to each its distinguishing cognomen. But whether he spoke in Hebrew, Gaelic, or Low Dutch, I know not, I leave the enquiry to those who love to

“Chase a panting syllable through time and space,
Start it at home and hunt it in the dark,
Through Gaul, through Greece, and into Noah's Ark.”

In approaching the subject of *proper names* one is impressed with the large amount of interest which it has attracted. Isaac Taylor has prefixed to his “Words and Places,” a list of 409 authors, whom he consulted in preparing that interesting volume. Another thing that impresses us is the bewildering number and variety of these names.