

Latin vernacularism originating in *Arce*, i. e. the *Arx* or citadel which once stood on the same spot.—The Capitoline Hill itself is popularly known as the Campidolio, the oil-field. Finally the famous Amphitheatre of Vespasian, commonly spoken of as the Coliseum, was, at least in the middle ages, designated the *Colosseum*, the place of the Colossus, the former site, that is, of the Colossal statue of Nero.

It was not my intention when I began this paper to dwell at any length on such vernacularisms as those which I have just been noticing—vernacularisms to be detected in tongues now little known or passed entirely out of use. I desired to discuss principally a few verbal curiosities of the kind indicated, which I have happened to observe in our own common speech and in one or two cotemporary foreign languages. To them I now proceed.

1. And, first, let us take some names of plants or vegetable productions. It will not be necessary to make any remarks upon ordinarily-quoted and very obvious examples. I therefore dismiss at once *rosemary* from *ros marinus*, *tuberose* from *polyanthes tuberosa*, *foxglove* from *folks'*, i. e. *fairies'*, *glove*, *liquorice* from *glykyrriza*, *mandrake* from *mandragora*, *dandelion* from *dent de lion*, *hollyoak* (a wording to Lord Bacon) from the Anglo-Saxon *holihoc*, *buckwheat* from *buche-wheat*, i. e. beech-nut wheat, grain of a beech-nut shape, &c. In respect of *mandrakes*—there is, in "Sir John Oldecastle," a play sometimes attributed to Shakspeare, an allusion to a popular notion about them. The guilt of murder, it is there said,

—— solicits Heaven

With more than mandrakes' shrieks.

From *mandragora* has sprung the elaborate French vernacularism, *main de gloire*. I pass on to specimens of less notoriety.

When we enunciate the names of the well-known common flowers jonquil, gilliflower, daffodil, periwinkle, or of the herbs parsley, caraway, the weed purslane, or the familiar exudation from our pine-trees, turpentine, we feel at once that, if they do not in every instance convey a perfect English meaning, they are at least made up of plain English-sounding syllables, each possessing a certain degree of sense. These are all vernacularisms based on terms foreign to our speech.

Jonquil is properly the Italian *giunchilia*, i. e. the *narcissus junci-folius*. Gilliflower is, through the old French, *giloferé*, for *giroflé*, the botanical *caryophyllus*, a clove. Daffodil is a capricious Anglicisation of *asphodel*. Periwinkle is Italian again, viz. *pervinca*. Parsley is