

the ground." Let us then retrace our way homeward, cheered and strengthened by the belief that "every cloud has a silver lining."

#### NAMES.

It is probable that all proper names had originally a distinctive meaning. A person became known for some physical peculiarity, some trait of character, or from his occupation. Longfellow and Short were named from their stature. Hasty, Noble, Savage were so called on account of some manifestation of disposition and manners. Hunter, Fisher, Taylor, Cooper, and all that class of names, were derived from the trades of life. Smith, which predominates over all other names, signified a smiter, and was applied originally to all whose occupation was smiting, whether carpenters, masons, or workers in tin.

We find many names derived from locality; as Wood, Hill, Forest, Underwood, Underhill, Lake, Rivers. Many names of this description have been abbreviated, or corrupted; such as Topcliff, or Copliff, which was at first Top-cliff, or Top-of-the-cliff, where the individual to whom it was given resided.

Some names are from nationality; as French, English, Scott, Welch, or Walch. Some are from complexion; as White, Black, and Brown. Green was probably a verdant individual. Ward was a guardian or keeper; Durward, a doorkeeper; Woodward, a forest-keeper. Sandy, Sanders, and Saunders, were nicknames of Alexander. Borrowscale was a person so in the habit of going to his neighbors for an article which he ought to have been owner of himself, that the boys said, "There comes old Borrow-scales!" and fixed the epithet upon him.

When communities were small, and society simple, a man had but one name, as Moses, Peter, John. But as men multiplied, and society grew complex, there arose a confusion of names, and double names became necessary. Moses, the joiner, became Moses Jenner; John, the clerk, became John Clark; and Peter of the Seven Oaks, was contracted to Peter Snooks. This is the origin of surnames; the name of the father usually descended to his family.

The Scotch and Irish *Mac* means son; as Donald MacDonald, Donald the son of Donald, and James Macarty, James the

son of Arthur. Fitz, from the Latin *filius*, or French *fits*, has the same signification; as Fitz-James, Fitz-Howard, and Fitz-Roy, the son of a king. The Welsh *ap* is similar; hence such kite-tail names as Owen ap Howell, as Harry ap Thomas, with other *aps* without number, by which a man traces back his ancestry. Sometimes the *ap* becomes incorporated in the succeeding name; as in Powell, Parry, and Apthomas. The Irish *O'* and the French *De* also indicate ancestry on family; as O'Brien, and DeVere.—*Boston paper.*

#### SALT LAKE.

Mr. Greeley writes from the centre of Mormondom, as to the cause of the saltiness of Salt Lake, thus:—

That this lake should be salt, is no anomaly. All large bodies of water into which streams discharge themselves, while they have severally no outlet, are or should be salt. If one such is fresh, that is an anomaly indeed. Lake Utah probably receives as much saline matter as Salt Lake; but she discharges it through the Jordan, and remains herself fresh; while Salt Lake, having no issue, save by evaporation, is probably the saltiest body of water on earth. The ocean is comparatively fresh; even the Mediterranean, at Leghorn, is not half so salt. I am told that three barrels of this water yield a barrel of salt; that seems rather strong, yet its intense saltiness, no one who has not had it in his eyes, his mouth, his nostrils, can realize. You can no more sink in it than in a clay bank, but a very little of it in your lungs would suffice to strangle you. You make your way in from a hot, rocky beach over a chaos of volcanic basalt that is trying to the feet; but at the depth of a yard or more, you have a fine sand bottom, and here the bathing is delightful. The water is of a light green color for ten or twenty rods; then "deeply, darkly, beautifully blue." No fish can live in it; no frog abides in it; few birds are ever seen dipping into it.

#### TRAINING A DOG.

Every boy knows that with a little pains a dog may be trained to display the most curious accomplishments. Once I had a big black dog named Tiger, that I taught to hold a piece of bread on his nose till I had counted five, when he would toss it up, and catch it in his teeth, with

great gusto, and a jolly twinkle of his eyes. One of the unluckiest attempts to train a dog that I ever heard of, was that of a couple of fellows near Philadelphia. They had not long come over from Europe. One of them had a mania for educating a savage little brute in all the accomplishments proper to a bull-dog, until he should be able to seize an ox by the nose, and hold him fast. Not having any oxen to practice on, they agreed that one should take the ugly little wretch along through the field, when the other should start out all of a sudden, on his hands and knees, bellowing like a bull, and the other would set the dog on him. It was done accordingly; but as ill luck would have it, the savage instinct of the dog was already developed to a high degree of perfection. He not only sprang at the make-believe-bull, but actually seized him by the nose, and gave him an awful bite, which made him bellow in good earnest.

Perhaps somebody will pity him. For my part, I think he was served about right for his stupidity.

#### THE BEAR AND THE KETTLE.

The bears of Kamschatka live chiefly on fish, which they procure themselves from the rivers. A few years ago the fish became very scarce. Emboldened by hunger, the bears, instead of retiring to their dens, wandered about, and sometimes entered the villages. One day a bear finding the outer door of a house open, entered it, and the door accidentally closed after him. The woman of the house had just put on the fire a kettle of boiling water. This Bruin smelt; it burnt his nose when, provoked at the pain, he vented his utmost fury on the tea-kettle. He folded his arms around it, pressed it with his whole strength against his breast to crush it—only, of course, to be more severely burnt. His horrible growling from rage and pain now brought the neighbors to the spot, and a few shots ended his misery. But to this day, when any one injures himself by his own violence, the villagers call him, with great propriety, "The Bear and the tea-kettle."—*Popular Natural History.*

The more difficult it is to obtain your ends, the more honorable will your success be.