

baldi, Florence (Nightingale) and a thousand others, furnish examples of what is meant. Yet the given or baptismal name, if possible, should never be of a sound to chime discordantly with the surname. When the first name ends in a consonant sound, thereby closing the organs of articulation, the whole name is less easily pronounced, than when the first one ends with a vowel sound. The latter occurring more frequently with feminine names, renders them generally more flowing and easy of utterance. It is said of the poet Southey, that the christian name contained a hissing *th*, corresponding to that in the sur-name, *Southey*. The name of his daughter (*Edith*) is the only one we remember. Where the given name begins with the same letter as the family name, the alliteration sometimes has a pleasing effect—as *Bernard Barton*, *Colin L. Campbell*, *Sidney Smith*, *Peter Perry*, *Paul Peterson*, &c. But this law of euphony and alliteration should not make us chary of an appropriate, significant, strong name, when apparently called for, however hard to pronounce.

The writer has observed some ludicrous mistakes into which this love of “pretty names” has led ignorant people. He has heard of a mother calling her daughter *Lobelia Inflata*, the name of the well known “emetic herb,” who on being asked why she gave her child such a name as that, answered that she “found it in a book,” and “thought it a very pretty one.”

As to the naming of *places* we confess we are heartily tired of the affix *ville*, attached to somebody’s name. We have Brockvilles, and Merrickvilles, and Bellevilles, and Demorestvilles, and Allisonvilles, and Bowmanvilles, and Stouffvilles, and Streetsvilles, and Churchvilles, and Hannahsvilles, and Beamsvilles, and Merritsvilles, and Wardvilles, enough. The name of a person may sometimes combine with some other word to form an agreeable name. Brantford, Elginfield, Helmsport, and Froomfield, are elegant. Some of the names borrowed from the Indian dialect are sonorous and significant: Cataraqua, Toronto, Cayuga, Nanticoke, and Seneca, are examples. But some of the prettiest and most expressive names are formed by compounding words expressive of the local situation of the places, such words being purely Anglo-Saxon. We have some such already in Canada: Westport, Newton, Weston, Norwood, Bloomfield, Milford, Milton, Millbrook, Coldwater, Coldspring, and even Stoney-Creek, are among the number. Names thus compounded, are, in our judgment, far the most appropriate to private residences. We are often surprised at the want of taste and ingenuity, or fancy, in the selection of names for their estates or residences by persons of wealth and refinement. We, however, remember some tasteful exceptions to this remark among esteemed friends in several different parts of the Province. A Rockliff, near Ottawa; a Burnside, near Brockville; and a River-View, near London, abodes in which we have temporarily sojourned with pleasure, are among the number.