

ON METONYMS, OR TRANSLATED AND QUASI-TRANSLATED PERSONAL NAMES.

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Most readers are aware that the names Erasmus and Melancthon are not the original native names of the persons who are thus usually designated in history and literature. They also probably know what the original names of these two distinguished men were. They know that Melancthon is the German family name Schwartzerd, Blackearth, in a Grecised form. They may remember, too, the anecdote of the popularity of his *Loci Communes* or Theological Summary, at Rome, while circulating as the production of one Ippofilo da Terra-negra, but its instant condemnation when discovered to be the work of the German reformer Philip Melancthon. They may know likewise that the family name of Erasmus was the Low-German one of Gerrit, in High-German Gerhard, fancifully and no doubt wrongly held to be a corruption of Gernhaber, an antique synonym of Liebhaber, of which Erasmus, Beloved, was supposed to be a sufficient translation. Moreover it will be remembered by some that the prenomens of Erasmus, namely Desiderius (which is intended to be identical in sense with Erasmus, the Beloved,) originated in the baptismal name of the little Gerrit, which was itself Gerrit, the same virtually as his surname: that, in fact, like Sir Cresswell Cresswell, the great scholar of Rotterdam was christened by his own family name, and that the reiteration that resulted was attempted to be rendered by the respectively Greek and Latin terms Desiderius Erasmus. (Both names were familiar enough at the time, as belonging to popular 'saints,' one being identical with the French St. Didier, the other with the Italian St. Elmo or Ermo.)

Now there are many other less familiar examples of somewhat similarly translated or quasi-translated names to be met with in literary