

**THE NICKNAMES OF KINGS.**—Kings have always been more or less peculiar, and, being such prominent folk, have had their little ways noted by everybody. They may have been no wiser or braver or worse than ordinary people, but, being kings, they have been regarded in a different light. These royal peculiarities are noted in a curious way by history, and one can get a good idea of what the various kings have been like by studying the nicknames given to them.

Once upon a time there were four kings named Boleslas, who reigned over Poland at different times, and, although no one might care to study the history of Poland to find out about them, history sums up in a word the characteristics of each. The first was the "Lion-Hearted," like the famous English Richard; the second was the "Intrepid;" while the third and fourth were entirely different men, being the "Wry-mouthed" and the "Curled;" and there you have an idea of the four Polish Boleslases. To further learn what other varieties of kings ruled Poland in bygone days, one need but run over the list and find the "Pacific," the "Careless," the "Just," the "White," the "Black," and the "Short."

France has had a most wonderful assortment of kings. One has been the "Little," and another the "Bold." One was the "Stammerer," another the "Simple," while a third and fourth were "Indolent" and "Fair." Another was "Saint Louis," and another was "Huntin," meaning "headstrong or mutinous." Another king was the "Long," while his successors were "Handsome," "Fortunate," "Good," "Wise," "Beloved," and "Affable." France must surely have been on the top then, and have progressed further when two kings were respectively called the "Father of his People," and the "Father of Letters."

Denmark has had a most curious array of sovereigns—the "Blue-tooth," "Forked Beard," "Simple," "Hungry," "Hare-foot," "Lamb," "Pious," and "Cruel," being among the number. This latter, who was Christian the Second, belied his real name by gaining the additional title of the "Nero of the North." There was probably little happiness in Denmark when he sat upon the throne.

Some of the early Kings of France already mentioned ruled over Germany at one time when there was no division, but when there was a separate German nation the rulers gained many curious titles. "Fat" was one and "Blind" another. Also the "Child," and "Fowler." Then "Blood," "Red," "Black," "Superb," and "Sharp," while one king is particularly described as the "Holy and Lame."