

Scouler live together in brotherly love. 2 Baynes and a Bain, are matched with a Fairlie and Gracey; there are Hastie, Burns and Frizzell, but then there is Coull beside them; a Black has his Fairbairn; a Law preaches the Gospel, and a Hyde is not far to seek. The Duffis are found with Bells; and 2 Kings and 1 Lord are led by a Herald. There are Cairns and Craigs and Maes in great numbers, but only 1 Carr to carry them; but the strangest fact is that there is not a Conductor or Christian among them.

In the selection of baptismal names genius and taste have played their strangest pranks. We were apt to wonder at Mr. Bumble's inventive faculties, as we encountered the strange cognomens which he provided for his small items of workhouse wretchedness. But he is dull and dwarfish, when compared with the achievements of two or three centuries ago. Names, in our day, indicate a surprising lack of originality. We travel in family grooves and have not the courage to strike out a path for ourselves. If Zachariah and Elizabeth dare to step aside, they are bluntly told that "There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name." Take 50,000, female names, and you will find that Mary monopolizes 7,000 of them, while Elizabeth and Sarah come in for respectable second and third shares. Take the same number of male names, and when John, William, Thomas, George, James and Charles have been heard, there will not be many left to scramble about.

What men call accident, has sometimes suggested names. We know why one was called Jacob, the *supplanter*: another Moses, *drawn out*: and even Miriam is flavored with the bitterness of the waters. Some of the Tartar tribes bestow on their offspring the name of the first person met six months after the birth. Many believe that a man is swayed by the excellent, or vicious, qualities suggested by the name he bears. Sterne avers that no sum of money would induce a man to call his child, Judas Iscariot, and adds, that a name like that would affect his moral qualities and make him a treacherous, miserable rascal. "Like name, like nature," is an old proverb. The ancient Romans held the same notion. The Persian is so imbued with this idea that, he endeavors to fix upon Deity the responsibility of selecting a name of good omen. Five names are written upon five bits of paper; these are put upon the Koran; one is taken, hap-hazard, and the name upon it is given to the child for life. A very pictorial habit existed in Chrysostom's time. A number of tapers, to which a number of names were attached, were lighted and the name of the longest burner was given to the child.