

find in that publication frequent notices, or "gazettes," of changes of name made by people entirely of their own motion, for such changes have become very common and numerous in England. The editor endeavors to save his self-respect (or excuse his obstinacy of opinion, if it may be so expressed) by heading each such notice, "assumption of an alias."

A person's name is no more than the method by which he is identified as an individual, and the family to which he belongs is indicated. Such name may become changed by other people if for any reason they become accustomed to identify him by some other name than that which he has previously borne, and changes of name have not infrequently in times past come about in that way. But it is usually by the choice of the individual himself that one's name becomes changed, and this may and often has been accomplished in the simplest manner and without any form whatever. When, however, any reason arises for making such a change it is important that it should be done in a public and somewhat formal manner, by which the change may be generally known, and the identity of the person preserved, and by which also the change may be so recorded as to be ascertainable and capable of being referred to at any future time.

The most frequent reason for a change of name is to preserve in the succession to property a name which has by long possession or for any other reason become more or less historic. But many published notices of such changes do not take the public into the confidence of those concerned, and omit giving any reason.

The only legal requirement for a change of name is that it must be done in good faith and not for any fraudulent purpose. But this, though good