

which have not been mentioned by earlier writers, and hardly any of which have been hitherto explained. Its relation to the *Romance of Names* is that of a more or less erudite treatise to a primer, matter which in the former book was dismissed in a paragraph or two being here expanded into a chapter. This involves a certain amount of repetition which I hope may be forgiven.

As the theories and etymologies proposed are to a great extent novel, I have thought it well to give some of the data on which they are based. Consequently the book will be found duller than its predecessor, and will, I fear, have little attraction for any but the surname enthusiast. The author's own inclination, successfully fought against, was to give for each name a mass of evidence, variants and early examples, which most readers would rather be spared. The method actually followed has been the rather unsatisfactory compromise of giving evidence and foreign parallels in a certain number of cases, and the author cannot hope that this has been done with much system or consistency. After the alternative plans had been considered of relegating the medieval examples to footnotes or to an appendix, it was finally decided to insert them in square brackets after the modern names to which they refer, an arrangement which will perhaps irritate the rapid reader without satiating the student. The chief sources of these early examples are cases, every English name printed in italic type and included in the index is, or was as late as the nineteenth century, actually existent in this country.