

*Place-nomenclature.*

these explanations were given in jest, and are so repeated by the more intelligent residents, but by others they are half, and by many wholly, believed. Man has some little desire for explanations of odd things, but only to such an extent that any plausible explanation is sufficient. It is but rarely that the desire is strong enough to seek not only an explanation but proof of its correctness, a psychological peculiarity by no means confined to matters of place-nomenclature.

A very interesting case of the origination of a place-name, all stages of which have fallen within my own knowledge is *De Monts*, on the St. Croix, as recorded in these Transactions, VIII, 1902, ii, 145.

186. In the investigation of the origin of place-names one must be constantly on guard against deceptive coincidences, the more especially as it is through coincidences only that many origins are elucidated. Several misleading coincidences occur in New Brunswick, and the student, did he not know from other evidence the true origin, would naturally be led to a wrong conclusion. Thus on the Tobique is an important mountain called *Blue Mountain*, and just below it lives a family named Blue: did we not know that the former name was given long before the settlement of the river (it is on a map of 1830), we would infer that the mountain took its name from this family of near-by residents. Again, there is in Queens County (the south-western corner) a *Queen's Brook*, which we would infer was named from the country; but we know that it is named from one Queen or Quinn through whose land it runs. Again, Hempstead is known to have been named by Loyalists for Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.; opposite is a *Long Island* which has been supposed to have been so named for Long Island, N. Y.; yet the records show that this island bore that name twenty years before the Revolution closed. Again, one Burt had a grant in the parish of *Burton* in 1785, and we might infer that the parish was named for him, did we not know that it was named much earlier for another man. Again, the leading family which settled *Cocagne* was named Gueguen, a name having many variants such as Gogain, etc.; the latter form comes close to Cocain, one of the variants of Cocagne, and did we not know that Cocagne was given by Denys in 1612, we would naturally infer that it was derived from this leading family of earliest settlers. Again, in Prince William Parish, settled by the King's American Dragoons, is a *Lake George*; it is a natural inference that this name was given in honour of King George III, yet we have perfect evidence that it was named for an early resident. *Bonny River*, would naturally be taken as a name descriptive of an attractive stream, but we know it is named for a resident.