

The foundation of Trinity College, Dublin, is considered by some to have originated with Queen Elizabeth, which is a great mistake; she did no more for it than allow it a participation in the general plunder of the ancient religious and literary institutions of the country, for the loss of which it is a very inadequate compensation. That University, which is the only one of many hundreds more once subsisting in our country, was founded by Alexander Bignor, archbishop of Dublin, (A. D. 1320) and confirmed by the Pope. Johannes Lechus, predecessor of Alexander, commenced it under the auspices of Pope Clement V., but did not finish it.

CHIT-CHAT.

Were we to say "The Sun in *her* glory" "The Moon in *his* wane" we should, we suppose, be laughed at by half of the community. And yet our German neighbours are as much surprised to hear us address the Sun as masculine and the Moon as feminine as we should be were we to hear honest Hans speaking of the Sun as "*she*" and of the Moon as "*he*." But the beauty of the matter is laugh as we like, Hans is right, and if any body is wrong it is we. In the Anglo-Saxon and old Saxon the Sun is feminine and the Moon is masculine. Why then do we not follow in this as in most other things the language and usage of our ancestors? But let us see—why honest Hans say *she* to the Sun?—whilst John Bull says *he*. The explanation though simple is curious. The fact is, honest Hans is following the custom of his Icelandic ancestors, whilst John Bull's classic pedantry has made him ignore his. In the prose Edda, an Icelandic mythological work of extreme antiquity we are told "Mundilfiori had two children; a son Mani (moon) and a daughter Sol" (Sun). Now here is the secret of the Dutchman's "*she*" to the Sun and "*he*" to the Moon, and shows his reverence for olden things. The Englishman, on the contrary, though his Anglo-Saxon ancestors always spoke of the Sun as feminine, changes all this, and because in Latin, *Phæbus* and *Sol* are masculine, and *Luna* and *Diana* feminine, our pedant, in order to air his classics at the

expense of his ancestors, speaks of "the Sun in *his* glory" "and the Moon in *her* wane."

It will, doubtless, be interesting to a very respectable class of our community (our widowers to wit) to know, that whereas, as a general thing, the feminine form of words as *baron* *baroness* is formed from the masculine, *they* in common with *gander* (from goose) and *drake* (from duck) form an exception; *widower* evidently being formed from *widow*. This should serve to teach them humility, in the first place, on finding that they are the weaker vessel; and in the second place, seeing the company (*gander* and *drake*) they are forced to keep in English grammar.

We have placed the word *drake* in the same category as *widower*. Perhaps we have done Mr. Drake an injustice. *Drake* is not derived from *duck*, nor has it any etymologic relation to it whatsoever. *Drake* is an independent word derived from the New High German words *enterich* and *antrechl*, which, in their turn, are derived from the Old High German *anetrekho*, which, in its turn, comes from the Latin word *anas* (a duck) through its genetive *anatis*. What strange ancestors some people have?

With the Prince of *Wales* so prominently before the public as he is nowadays, it is just as well to post ourselves as to the meaning of the word which denotes the country which gives him his title. What does *Wales* mean? Is it singular? is it plural? If plural—what is its singular? All these are questions which would pose the average paterfamilias, if propounded by an inquisitive son over his wine and walnuts. Speaking of walnuts, has *Wales* (wal-es) any thing to do with wal-nuts? We shall see.

When the Saxons conquered England or rather Britain, the Britons, or original inhabitants, were driven into that part of England since called *Wales*. After a time the Saxons, with a delightful and refreshing egotism, not peculiar to Saxons alone, forgetting that they, indeed, were the invaders and the Britons the invaded, began to look upon