

and sometimes a term is only simplified by clearing it of harsh consonants or modifying it according to philological law.

The Alemanni, rendered familiar to us by Tacitus, have given in French and Italian a name to a large portion of central Europe. In French, as we know, Germany is *L'Allemagne*. In Italian, it is *Alamagna*, popularized into *Lamagna*, conveying to the uninstructed ear the idea simply of great size. Alemanni, nevertheless, was no national name, but the sound caught by the Gallic or Roman soldier, when some boastful prisoner from the farther bank of the Rhine asserted, in his hearing, that his people were either all true men, all brave warriors, or else that they were congregated from all parts of the interior. Again: along the Danube, it would be gathered by the men of the legions from Italy, that the banded hordes with whom they came in immediate contact, called themselves *Marcomanni*. This expression is entered on the tablets of the Roman officer as a national or tribal name; although its real significance in the barbarian mouth was "men of the border," "guardians of the march." Their tribal designation would be quite a different thing. The elementary books on English history, in use a few years ago, failed to apprise the student that *Mercia* was the March-land, and the *Mercians* the people of the March, i.e. as between the earlier Saxon settlers and the Celts whom they were displacing. And it is not every one that is to this day aware that "letters of marque" are strictly an authority to harass the enemy beyond the limits of the frontier.

In forming the word *Germani*, the Romans were probably influenced as well by a kind of analogy of sound between it and *Romani*, as also by its welcome identity with a vernacular term of their own signifying "brothers." In this his effort at self-satisfaction, the Latin etymologist was happier than the modern Englishman who barbarously vernacularizes Moslem into Mussulman, and sometimes, with greater cruelty still, pluralizes that into Mussulmen. *Germani*, again, is, in reality, no common national name, but a descriptive term, (*wehr-mann*, warrior, man of war)—formed from the boastful reply of some indignant brave to the questionings of his captors.

According to Tacitus, in his report of the ancient German songs and ballads, the founder of the ancient Teutonic race was *Mannus*. Here again we have a simple Latinization of *Man*, and a curious parallel to the practice of other early and doubtless cognate races, of embodying under a somewhat similar term a type of themselves in