

## ONTARIO NAMES BY AN ONTARIO EDITOR.

THE industry and love of research which have inspired Mr. H. F. Gardiner, editor of The Hamilton Times, to write his "Nothing But Names" are entirely creditable to him. This handsome volume is an excellent work of reference, and comprises 561 pages, 29 of which comprise the index. It is published by Morang & Co., Toronto, and a substantial reduction in the price is made to newspaper offices. The copious index is a feature which all who use books of reference will appreciate the value of, and it may probably prove to be the most complete index ever attached to a work of the kind. A glance at this part of the volume is enough to show the comprehensiveness of Mr. Gardiner's purview. It is delightfully personal in the sense of touching on personality, as the author is too thorough a newspaperman not to know how much depends on a judicious use of the names and doings of people. A random look at the index shows us:

Sir M. Bowell.	John Bunyan.
John Bright.	Calvin.
Julius Caesar.	King Caractacus.
Cedric the Saxon.	Archdeacon Farrar.

To bring a group of personages like this reasonably together in Ontario is a feat which surely could only be accomplished by a clever man. In his researches, Mr. Gardiner has discovered how the interest of places broadens out as we begin to inquire into their origin and past history. Starting with the sentence on the title page, "Names are the pages of history," he proceeds to take Ontario by counties and townships, and he gives a most interesting introduction in which he instances, so to speak, various groups of origin, such as: (1) Names of distin-

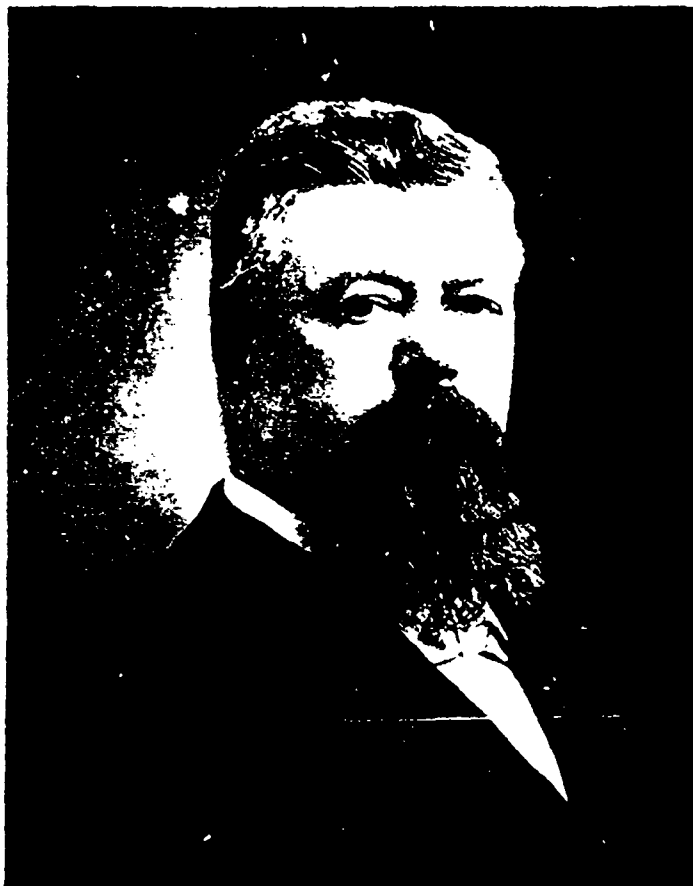
guished persons; (2) names of famous places in the Old Country; (3) names that have obtained notoriety and fame through events that have happened in the neighborhood. Ontario county and township names have been taken from places in England, Ireland, and Scotland; from names and titles of British statesmen, many of whom had official relations with the colonies, from soldiers and sailors who helped to save Canada to the British Crown; from King George III. and his 15 or 16 more or less interesting children and their titles; from governors, judges and officials, while not a few are derived from men whose title to fame in their persistence in land grabbing. There are other origins, such as scriptural and botanical names, names of animals, Greek, Latin, French and Spanish names, etc. A book on the lines indicated will be continuously interesting as a work of reference. The ingenuity with which Mr. Gardiner has found a rhymed couplet or verse for every county or township is surprising. Thus, the title of Barrie township, named in 1822, is decorated by the distich:

To the west of Lake Simcoe, a good place to tarry  
On Kempenfeldt Bay is the nice town of Barrie,

which is credited to the Muskoka rhymist. On the opposite page is a couplet from Byron, and we have quotations also from Shakespeare, Burns, Crabbe and Samuel Wesley, the latter furnishing the couplet on Radcliffe township.

When Radcliffe fell, afflicted Phoebe cried  
How can my power? and languished at his side,

which shows that while the genial poet was not writing hymns he could fill in the time with some very neat epitaphs. Mr. Gardiner has produced a valuable work and has collected in permanent form a mass of facts that were floating in the memories of elderly people who are one by one passing away.



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