

its people, and replaced them with the few which he and his friends carried with them. But the new-comers could not afford to be very generous, as their list was a rather poverty-stricken one. Thousands both conquerors and conquered, had to put up with the same name. Who was who? presented one of those difficulties which proved difficult to solve. Imagine the confusion, when one-third of the men of England were known as either William or John! The remedy was found in the universal adoption of *nick-names* and *pet-names*, as marks of distinction. These nicks and pets were the seedlings, out of which have sprung the mighty families of surnames, which now do business among English-speaking peoples.

The question of *nick-names* is large and amusing. Lord Oxford said, "A nick-name will sometimes create a tumult in a city, or shake the foundations of a State." They are often a source of annoyance to the bearer; wits and foes contrive to squeeze any amount of torture out of them. If a worthy man has a name which neither punster nor fool can twist into an instrument of pain, let him be thankful and take courage. An earl of *Kildare* was not so fortunate,—

"Who killed Kildare? Who dared Kildare to kill?
Death killed Kildare, who dares kill whom he will."

Nor was one *Homer*, who got into pecuniary difficulties, on which a wag wrote:—

"That Homer should a bankrupt be,
Is not so very odd—*Eye-see*:
If it be true, as I am instructed,
So *Ill-had* his books conducted."

Shakespeare's "What is in a Name?" is confronted by "Give a dog a bad name and you hang him." The story goes that, the hungry wretch had snatched a lump of meat from the Quaker butcher's stall, and ran away with it. The owner, being a man of peace proclivities, simply shouted after the canine thief, "Friend, I will not hurt thee, but I will give thee a bad name." So he followed the culprit with the cry "Mad dog, mad dog," and the small boy took up the cry and the chase—poor dog! he was soon killed. Sometimes a nick-name, steeped in gall and poison, gradually loses its offensiveness. *Tory*, was originally applied to a band of Irish robbers, then sarcastically, to the friends of the British Court and Constitution. In retaliation, these branded their opponents with *Whigg*, the name of a Scotch beverage made from sour milk. In both cases the sting has been