

bury we did a foolish thing seeing that it means *Southborough* and has been transplanted to Ontario and given a local habitation in the *North* country, contrary to all the regulations of Onomatology.* Mr. Sulte at the last meeting of the Society gave us samples of foolishly selected names, including, as he contends, the place-name of this city—Ottawa. Sir William Van Horne mentions *Bergen* as a singularly inappropriate place-name, being situated in the middle of a great plain of Manitoba, while the original Bergen is a seaport of Norway surrounded by high mountains. Every feature in the new place is the direct opposite of the old place—the one a mountain-begirt town, the other a plain-encompassed village; the one washed by the briny ocean—and if you want to know what that means read Robert Stevenson's tale of the "Merry Men"—the other without any water, fresh or salt, in it; the one a great entrepot for fish and fish products, the other scarcely seeing a fish from one year's end to another.

A few months ago the Royal Society of Canada affixed a tablet to the Province Building in Halifax to commemorate the connection of the Venetian merchant † with our country. The plan adopted in this case has been a favorite for many years; only the tablets have taken the form of place-names derived from surname, christian name and title of persons who in some way or other have been associated with Canada. Our borrowings in this line have been extensive. Very few Lords of Plantations, Secretaries of War (when these were also Secretaries for the Colonies) and Secretaries and Under-Secretaries for the Colonies (since 1854) have escaped the seafaring place-name hunter called upon to baptize the new township or county or village with a name that will sufficiently identify it. Of the 108 of these functionaries who have administered our affairs in the Imperial Government since 1768, I failed to find among our place-names, Castle-reagh, Hicks-Beach, Chamberlain, Ball, Pirbright, Meade, Pauncefote and Bramston—8 out of 108.

Since Jacques Cartier's time Canada has had 300 kings and queens, governors, governors-general and lieutenant-gov-

*Sometimes a great and important fact is embalmed in a place-name applied in the reverse of the Geographical position. Thus Sutherlandshire occupies a far North place on the map of the Island of Great Britain though it means the *South* land. The name was evidently given by persons living north of Great Britain; probably the Norwegian settlers of the Orkney Islands gave it.

†Cabot is appropriately memorized in Cabot Straits—the water passage between Newfoundland and Cape Breton.