

escape these or any other known principles of nomenclature. They form a class apart, and the motive principle of their imposition would seem to be mere eccentricity, or the quality which Artemus Ward describes as sheer 'cussedness.' What other human motive could, for instance, account for some of the extraordinary names inflicted on certain American public men in the days of their mewling, defenceless infancy? The Rev. Ki Smith, for instance, and Messrs. Bomberine Amstein, Dink Botts, Pod Dismuke, Hoke Smith, and scores of others less prominent all cited have probably spent many hours of their persecuted schooldays, and of their ridiculed manhood in volleying streams of lava-hot feeling at the senseless stupidity or semi-insane eccentricity of parents, who inflicted on them names that were scarcely good enough for a clown dog in a circus. The most curious collection of eccentric 'Christian' names that has ever come under my notice, was bestowed by the Rev. Ralph William Lyonel Tollemache, an Anglican clergyman, upon the children of his second marriage. Mr Tollemache has evidently laid his mind to the question of child-nomenclature, and with a wealth of results which won for his efforts the distinction of publication in *London Truth*, of October 20, 1898. The following, according to *Truth*, is the

PROCESSION OF BAPTISMAL FAVORS

bestowed upon the nine children of Mr Tollemache's second nuptials—

(1) Lyulph Ydwallo Odin Nestor Egbert Lionel Tolldmag Hugh Erchenwyne Saxon Esa Cromwell Orma Nevill Dysart Plantagenet.

(2) Leo Quintus Tollemache-Tollemache de Orellana Plantagenet.

(3) Leene Sextus Denys Oswolf Fraudati Filius Tollemache-Tollemache de Orellana Plantagenet.

(4) Lyonulph Cospatrick Bruce Berkley Zermzer Tullibardine Petersham de Orellana Plantagenet.

(5) Mabel Helmingham Ethel Huntingtower Beatrice Clazonberrie Evangeline Visede Loude Orellana Orellana Plantagenet Tolldmag Saxon.

(6) Lyonesse Matilda Dora Ida Ernestine Curson Paulet Wilbraham Jyce Eugenie Bentley Saxonia Dysart Plantagenet.

(7) Lyona Ducima Veronica Eesyth Undine Cysa Hylia Rowena Adela Thyra Ursula Ysabel Blanche Lehas Dysart Plantagenet.

(8) Lyonella Fredegunde Cathberga Ethelswytha Ideth Ysabel Grace Monica de Orellana Plantagenet.

(9) Lyonetta Edith Regina Valentine Myra Polwarth Avellina Philippa Violantha de Orellana Plantagenet.

'I do not know,' said the editor of *Truth*, 'whether the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has any powers, which it might exercise in a case like this; but, if not, the omission ought to be remedied by Mr Waugh in the next addition of the *Children's Charter*.'

The little daughter of Archduke Stephen, of Austria, received no fewer than 18 Christian names in Baptism. Some of them are sufficiently curious and the whole combination runs as follows:—Maria Immaculata Caroline Margarethe Beata Leopoldine Beatrice Anna Josefine Raphaela Mechila Stanislaus Ignary Hieronymus Camiro Katharina Petra Cecelia. Royal personages generally are, in fact, noted for the extreme prodigality with which they bestow fore-names upon their children. But even the most ambitious crowned heads are, in this matter, eclipsed by a plain British bourgeois, a West Derby landryman named Pepper, who bestowed upon his daughter (born December 17, 1882) the following parade of six-and-twenty curiously assorted male and female heathen and Christian names:—Anna Bertha Cecelia Emma Emily Fanny Gertrude Hypatia Jane Kate Louise Maud Nora Ophelia Pauline Quince Rebecca Starkey Teresa Ulysses Venus Winifred Xenophon Yetty Zeus.

Such formidable processional names seem to be peculiar to later times. Even double Christian names were extremely rare in pre-Reformation England. The late Father Bridgett, C.S.S.R., had a wide experience in reading old wills, charters, deeds of sale, etc., but could only mention one instance, in which an English man, in the times preceding the great religious upheaval of the sixteenth century, had two Christian names. The happy man in question was Thomas Maria Welford who was rector of Warrington, in Lancashire, in 1527, a member of Parliament for Huntington. It is strange that the sweetest name of woman, Mary, was almost unknown in England as a Christian name before the sixteenth century. Father Bridgett could find only one person in pre-Reformation times in England who bore the name of Joseph, and he seldom dropped across the names of the founders of religious Orders. He found no Dominics, no Franceses, no Pauls. John was the most favored name of all. Next in the order of preference came Thomas, Richard, Robert, Roger, Walter, Hugh, Peter, Bartholomew, Henry, Christopher, Philip, Gregory, Giles, Stephen, Andrew, Gilbert, Herbert, Reginald, Ralph, Ger vase, Maurice, Martin, Humphrey, Eustace, Fulk, Osbert, Edward, Nicholas, and Lawrence. Among women the most frequent name seems to have been Anne (sometimes varied as Alison), and next in order of popularity came Joan, Isabella, Matilda, Margaret and Margery, Agnes or Annes, Gertrude, and Elizabeth. Other common female names were Thonac and Thomassin, the feminine forms of Thomas.

I might here refer incidentally to the growing custom of concealing good old Christian names under various disguises—calling Mary, for instance, by its French equivalent Marie, or turning it into May, or barring it almost beyond recognition into the childish designation Mame or Mayme. In the same way the plain English John is sometimes disguised under its Russian form, Ivan, which, by the way, is usually mispronounced 'Ee-vaan' (with the accent on the first syllable), the former pronunciation being Ee-vaan (with the stress on the second syllable). The same two re-

marks apply also to the now somewhat common name Ines (or Inez), the Spanish equivalent for the fine old name Agnes.

The French, Italians, and Spaniards greatly excel English-speaking peoples in the euphony, good taste, and religious suggestiveness of the names which they give to the children at Baptism. Mr Julian McCormick, an American writer, lays down in a recent book, 'The Child's Name,' the following

RULES FOR A GOOD COMBINATION

of Christian names:—

'1. The same sounds should not occur in both the Christian and surnames.

'2. Alliteration must be avoided.

'3. Very rare names should not be selected for common surnames.

'4. Let simplicity characterise the name and surname.'

Mr McCormick endeavors to meet the prevailing demand for names that are at the same time unfamiliar and euphonic by publishing

A LIST

of some 500, drawn from the most accessible martyrologies, and adding thereto brief biographies, which serve the useful purpose of making the saints and great servants of God better known. I select the following from his list:—

Masculine Names.—Adalbert, Adelard, Adrian, Agatho, Aidan, Alban, Alderbert, Aldric, Aloysius, Alphonsus, Ambrose, Anselm, Antony, Augustine, Basil, Bede, Benedict, Benjamin, Bruno, Callistus, Camillus, Casimir, Cassian, Celestine, Claude, Claudius, Clement, Colman, Columba, Conall, Congall, Conrad, Cormac, Cuthbert, Cyprian, Cyril, Damian, David, Dion, Dominic, Dunstan, Eadbert, Edmund, Enna, Ephren, Eric, Ethelbert, Fabian, Felician, Ferdinand, Finbar, Fintan, Flavian, Fridian, Gerald, Gil das, Godfrey, Godric, Gordian, Harold, Hedda, Hilary, Hubert, Ignatius, Isidore, Jarlath, Jerome, Julian, Julius, Justin, Kenelm, Kentigern, Kilian, Lambert, Leo, Leonard, Leopold, Louis, Lucian, Malo, Maro, Martial, Melito, Nivian, Norbert, Odo, Odrian, Omer, Osmund, Oswald, Oswin, Otho, Philibert, Prosper, Quintin, Raymond, Rami, Romuald, Rufus, Rupert, Sebastian, Senan, Sigbert, Sigfried, Sigismund, Stanislaus, Sylvester, Theobald, Theodore, Ulfrid, Ulmar, Ulrich, Urban, Valery, Victor, Vincent, Vivian, Walstan, Wilfred, Wulstan.

Feminine Names.—Adela, Adria, Afra, Agatha, Alba, Angela, Antonia, Artemia, Athelda, Aurelia, Barbara, Beatrice, Bertha, Blanda, Blandina, Britta, Callista, Camilla, Cecilia, Celina, Christina, Clare, Claudia, Clotilda, Constance, Cornelia, Corona, Cyra, Cyrilla, Delphine, Dorothy, Ebba, Edelburga, Edith, Emma, Etha, Euthalia, Everilda, Fausta, Flavia, Galla, Honora, Genevieve, Gertrude, Ida, Idalberga, Juliana, Julitta, Justina, Lea, Leonilla, Lucia, Lydia, Marcella, Martina, Maura, Mida, Mildred, Monica, Nonna, Nora, Octavia, Oda, Ojilla, Ortrude, Patricia, Paula, Pauline, Rufina, Sabina, Silfina, Sylvia, Theodora, Theonilla, Ursula, Valeria, Veronica.

Personally, I confess to a sentimental preference for the good old-fashioned saint-names that I have been accustomed to; and there are, in all reason, enough of them to go round and round, and round again, a family as big as that of the old woman who lived in a shoe, and had so many children she didn't know what to do. Irish, Scottish, and English parents need not go to France and Spain, and Russia, for labels for their little ones, while there is such a wealth of Celtic and Saxon child-names to select from, as has been given above. To the Irish list I would add, on my own account, the following:—For boys—Brendan, Brian, Dermot, Fergus, Niel, Kenneth; and for girls—Eileen, Kathleen, Eimer, Una, Ethne, Bridget or Bride (Bridget is Swedish), Geraldine, and—last in place, but first in thought—Mona (Maurya), the sweet-sounding equivalent for the name of Mary.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD.

Captain Wymer, of the S.O. Cameron Highlanders, was recently received into the Church by Monsignor Vaughan.

Among recent converts to the Catholic Church in Prussian Poland is a daughter of Professor Kosanes, of Posen.

Mrs. Heard, of Lishen House, Ballinahinch, Cashel, was received into the Church by the President of Rockwell College on Holy Saturday.

A Catholic exchange reports the reception into the Church of two sons of Herr Jacob Caro, Professor of History in the University of Berlin.

Miss Florence Allan, a leading Liverpool vocalist, has been received into the Church by the Rev. Sebastian Bowden, at the Brompton Oratory, London.

A well-known 'Old Catholic' priest in South Germany, Dr. Watterich, has recently returned to his obedience to the Catholic Church, and has published the following declaration in the *Anzeigblatt* of the diocese of Freiburg:—'Since the grace of Almighty God has led me back to the bosom of His Holy Church, and I have again embraced with my whole heart the Roman Catholic faith, I hereby withdraw all the errors against this holy faith of which I have been guilty both in word and in writing, whether publicly or privately. May God make good the scandal which I have given. I commit my soul to His mercy for time and for eternity.'

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