

ART. LXVII.—*A Note on Latin Place-names.*

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[*Read before the Otago Institute, 12th October, 1886.*]

IN Livy, xxi., 19, we read, "tum maxime Sagunto excisa;" further on, in xxi., 21, we read, "Sagunto capto." The first expression is explained *per synesin* of "urbe" with *Saguntum*, and the participle is taken in agreement with it. Livy occasionally introduces *urbem*, *vicum*, in apposition to the names of towns, in "*um*." Hence has arisen a certain perplexity as to the gender of Latin place-names; add to which the influence of Greek place-names, and we have the erroneous statement of our Latin Grammars on this point seemingly justified. But Livy, in using such a sentence as the following (among a host of such instances), ii., 63: "Fusi, in primo proelio hostes, et in *urbem* Antium, ut tum res erant *opulentissimam* acti," is telling us that the enemy fled to Antium—a town of very great wealth, as the times were then—and uses the plainest way of saying what he has to tell us.

In our Latin Grammars, (two books of this year, 1886, are enough to cite,) the statement runs substantially thus: "Names of countries, *cities*, islands, and trees are feminine." In another Grammar the statement is somewhat guarded: "Most names of cities are feminine." Here is a qualification of the previous statement; and it is to be hoped that in time the statement will be further attenuated, so as to represent the facts.

What are the facts? In my copy of Madvig's Grammar (third edition, an old book), p. 28, the author says very little about the subject; but adds, "of the words in *us* the names of towns are feminine. *These names are all Greek.*" The italics are mine; and the statement is worth noting, because it indicates the natural order of things: that, in the case of one highly-inflected language passing on names into another highly-inflected language the names bear their gender with them. All these Latinized spellings of Greek place-names only go to show that in Greek the names of towns in *os* are feminine.

But in his "Notes on Latin Word-systems," published in 1844, this great scholar (who has died since this note was compiled,) goes further: "Not a single name of a place in Latin, irrespective of the nature of its termination, is of the feminine gender." Notwithstanding which dogma of the master, compilers of Latin Grammars for English boys have gone on reiterating the same misleading "rule" with a sort of hide-bound obstinacy.

We find place-names declined according to the scheme of the first, second, and third declensions. I am not acquainted with any belonging to the fourth and fifth declensions, and am inclined to think that as geographical names usually belong to rough speech, these somewhat obscure varieties of declension do not contain any place-names.

Taking suffixes in order, we begin with

i.—*a, æ.*

Pola	Cremona	Roma	Ilerda
Aquileia	Brixia	Sinuessa	Corduba
Vicetia	Florentia	Gaieta	Dertosa
Ravenna	Pisa	Aquilonia	Cæsar Augusta
Bononia	Cortona	Tarracina	Sâmârobriva
Mutina	Sena	Ostia	
Placentia	Ancona	Ardea	
Faesulæ	Fidenæ	Minturnæ	Cannæ
		Allifæ	

All feminine, as the terminations require.

ii.—*ii or i.*

Corioli	Gabii	Puteoli	Volsinii
Falerii	Veii	Volei	

And, by analogy, Pompeii, together with numerous tribal names, of which, in the case of towns, the suffix *ii* is a survival. These are masculine words.

iii.—*um.*

Patavium	Clusium	Ferentinum	Antium
Tarvisium	Ariminum	Aquinum	Herculanum
Altinum	Pisaurum	Arpinum	Surrentum
Mediolanum	Assisium	Tusculum	Salernum
Bergomum	Spoletium	Pæstum	Saguntum
Ticinum	Asculum	Venafrum	Casilinum
Comum	Lanuvium	Bovianum	
Arretium	Nomentum	Teanum	

—with many others. These are all neuter.

iv.—*a* (of the plural).

Susa	Leuctra	Megara	Tigranocerta
Arbela	Bactra	Artaxata	

—Greek names, but neuter, as their suffix requires.

v.—*us.*

There are no Latin place-names with this suffix, which is native, however, to Greek, and brings with it its gender; even in the case of variants,—as *e.g.*, *Canopus*, *Isthmus*, *Orchomenus*, *Pontus*,—names masculine in Greek are masculine in Latin.

vi.—*o* (gen. *-onis*).

Croto	Hippo	Olisipo	Vesontio
Telo (Martius)	Frusino	Pompaelo	Tarräco
Narbo	Sulmo	Mago	

—all masculine, as the suffix requires.

vii.—*e*.

Tergeste	Caere	Bibracte	Soracte
Praeneste	Reate	Nepete	

—all neuter, as the suffix requires. (But Arelate, a Greek word of 1st declension, is feminine.)

viii.—*ur*.

Tibur	Anxur
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—neuter, as the suffix requires. (Anxur, the mountain, is masculine by analogy with the usual gender of the names of mountains.)

ix.—*Various suffixes.*

Gadîr	Tuder	Asty	Hispal
Ierusalem	Illiturgi	Pessinous (<i>-nus</i>)	Tunes

—neuter or masculine. (The indeclinable words are neuter.)

In all the cases quoted above we note that the suffix determines the gender of the place-name; the "rule" is not even traceable. There is, *e.g.*, a well-known suffix *-onis*, and another *-inis*. The former is masculine, the latter feminine: hence Narbo *-onis* is masculine (Narbo Martius), and Carthago *-inis* is feminine (Carthago Nova).

If we follow Latin further afield, the question is further elucidated. In Gaul, the Romans meet with a place-suffix *dun* (enclosure, wick, or burg). To bring this suffix within the scope of their system they add a neuter suffix, *um*, and the place-names become neuter: hence we have—

Noviodunum	Verodunum	Camalodunum (Britain)
Lugdunum	Eburodunum	Sorbiodunum (Britain)
Segodunum	Uxellodunum	

And even such hybrids as Augustodunum and Cæsarodunum. All these words are neuter.

But the suffix *um*, or *ium*, is freely used to reduce to the Latin scheme a very large number of words found among subject tribes:—

Londinium	Corinium	Glevum	Lindum
Eburacum	Mancunium	Verulamium	Regulbium

(All in Britain)

Turicum	Avaricum	Aginnum.
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—besides words like Trajectum, Durotrajectum, and many others, all neuter, as the suffix requires.

What becomes of the "rule"? As Zumpt seems to have felt, it is so overwhelmed with exceptions that *mole ruit earum*. Having examined three hundred and fifty place-names, found chiefly in the western section of the *Orbis Romanus*, I am not able to discern any "rule" applicable to the names of towns. But the influence of the "rule" is very great. Even Lewis and Short, *s. v.*, are misled by it. In order to justify Liv., xxi., 19, cited above, they allege that Liv. used *Sazuntus*. But *Saguntum* is in good prose the only form used, *cf.* Mayor on Juv., xv., 114. Poets and writers like Mela and Florus use *Sazuntus*. Juv., *loc. cit.*, uses *Zazyntus*, a thinly-veiled form of *Zacyntus*.

ART. LXVIII.—*Transcendental Geometry: Remarks suggested by Mr. Frankland's Paper, "The Non-Euclidian Geometry Vindicated."**

By GEORGE HOGBEN, M.A.

[Read before the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, 7th October, 1886.]

IN the paper referred to, Mr F. W. Frankland implies that the views he advocates are generally accepted by living mathematicians—*e.g.*, on page 59, paragraph 4: "He [Professor Clifford] says, in common with most living mathematicians who have studied this question, that space *may* be finite"; and again, on page 60, paragraph 6: "To the expression 'geometers of the Euclidian school' I take exception, believing that none such are left, in the sense in which Mr. Skey uses the word. The triumph of the non-Euclidian geometry, or, I will say, the 'general' geometry, has been complete. I can safely appeal, on this point, to any distinguished member of any Mathematical Society in Europe or America."

Now, I am quite aware that, if this were an accurate description of the state of mind of most living mathematicians and distinguished members of Mathematical Societies, it would be an extremely rash proceeding on my part to enter into the controversy. One could only gaze in wonder at those superior beings who roamed at large in space of the $(n+1)$ th degree, while we poor mortals had to be content with three dimensions.

I cannot think that Mr. Frankland is justified in demanding a greater admission than this: that there are (or have been,) distinguished mathematicians holding those views, and that Mathematical Societies have, as in duty bound, allowed the discussion of them in their meetings and in their journals.

* "Trans. N.Z. Inst.," vol. xviii., p. 58