CHAPTER X

DOUBLETs

The largest class of doublets is formed by those words of Latin origin which have been introduced into the language in two forms, the popular form through Anglo-Saxon or Old French, and the learned through modern French or directly from Latin. Obvious examples are *caitiff, captive; chieftain, captain; frail, fragile*. Lat. *discus*, a plate, quoit, gave Anglo-Sax. *disc*, whence Eng. *disk*. In Old French it became *deis* (*dais*), Eng. *daies*, and in Ital. *desco*, "a deske, a table, a boord, a counting boord" (Florio), whence our *desk*. We have also the learned *disc* or *disk*, so that the one Latin word has supplied us with four vocables, differentiated in meaning, but each having the fundamental sense of a flat surface.

*Dainty*, from Old Fr. *deinté*, is a doublet of *dignity*. *Ague* is properly an adjective equivalent to *acute*, as in Fr. *fièvre aigue*. The *paladins* were the twelve *peers* of Charlemagne's *palace*, and a Count *Palatine* is a later name for something of the same kind. One of the most famous bearers of the title, Prince Rupert, is usually called in contemporary records the *Palsgrave*, from Ger. *Pfalsgraf*, lit. *palace count*, Ger. *Pfalen* being a very early loan from Lat. *palatium*. *Trivet*, Lat. *tripes*, *triped*-, dated back to Anglo-Saxon, its "rightness" being
due to the fact that a three-legged stool stands firm on any surface. In the learned doublets *tripod* and *tripos* we have the Greek form. *Spice*, Old Fr. *espice* (*épice*), is a doublet of *species*. The medieval merchants recognised four "kinds" of spice, viz., saffron, cloves, cinnamon, nutmegs.

* Coffin is the learned doublet of *coffer*, Fr. *coffre*, from Lat. *cophinus*. It was originally used of a basket or case of any kind, and even of a pie-crust—

> "Why, thou say'st true; it is a paltry cap; A custard-coffin, a bauble, a silken pie."

*(Taming of the Shrew, iv. 3.)*

Its present meaning is an attempt at avoiding the mention of the inevitable, a natural human weakness which has popularised in America the horrible word *casket* in this sense. The Greeks, fearing death less than do the moderns, called a coffin plainly *σαρκοφάγος*, flesh-eater, whence indirectly Fr. *cercueil* and Ger. *Sarg*.

The homely *mangle*, which comes to us from Dutch, is a doublet of the warlike engine called a *mangonel*—

> "You may win the wall in spite both of bow and mangonel."

*(Ivanhoe, Ch. 27.)*

which is Old French. The source is Greco-Lat. *manganum*, apparatus, whence Ital. *mangano*, with both meanings. The verb *mangle*, to mutilate, is unrelated.

*Sullen*, earlier *soleyn*, is a popular doublet of *solemn* in its secondary meaning of glum or morose. In the early Latin-English dictionaries *solemn*, *soleyn*, and *sullen* are used indifferently to explain such words as *acerbus*, *agelastus*, *vulnus*. Shakespeare speaks of "customary suits of solemn black" *(Hamlet, i. 2)*, but makes Bolingbroke say—

> "Come, mourn with me for that I do lament, And put on sullen black incontinent."

*(Richard II., v. 6.)*
while the "solemn curfew" (Tempest, v. 1) is described by Milton as "swinging slow with sullen roar" (Penseroso, l. 76). The meaning of antic, a doublet of antique, has changed considerably, but the process is easy to follow. From meaning simply ancient it acquired the sense of quaint or odd, and was applied to grotesque1 work in art or to a fantastic disguise. Then it came to mean buffoon, in which sense Shakespeare applies it to grim death—

"For within the hollow crown
That rounds the mortal temples of a king,
Keeps death his court; and there the antic sits,
Scoffing his state, and grinning at his pomp."

(Richard II., iii. 2.)

and lastly the meaning was transferred to the capers of the buffoon. From Old High Ger. faltan (falten), to fold, and stuo (Stuhl), chair, we get Fr. fauteuil. Medieval Latin constructed the compound faldestolium, whence our ecclesiastical faldstool, a litany desk. Revel is from Old Fr. reveler, Lat. rebellare, so that it is a doublet of rebel. Holyoak's Latin Dictionary (1612) has revells or routs, "concursum populi illegitimum." Its sense development, from a riotous concourse to a festive gathering, has perhaps been affected by Fr. reveiller, to wake, whence reveillon, a Christmas Eve supper, or "wake." Cf. Ital. vegghia, "a watch, a wake, a reveling a nights" (Florio).

The very important word, money has acquired its meaning by one of those accidents which are so common in word-history. The Roman mint was attached to the temple of Juno Moneta, i.e., the admonisher, from monère, and this name was transferred to the building. The Romans introduced moneta, in the course of their

1 I.e., grotto painting, Ital. grottesca, "a kinde of rugged unpolished painters worke, antickes works" (Florio).
conquests, into French (monnaie), German (Münze), and English (mint). The French and German words still have three meanings, viz., mint, coin, change. We have borrowed the French word and given it the general sense represented in French by argent, lit. silver. The Ger. Geld, money, has no connection with gold, but is cognate with Eng. yield, as in "the yield of an investment," of which we preserve the old-form in wer gild, payment for having killed a ma; (Anglo-Sax. wer). To return to moneta, we have a third form of the word in moidore—

"And fair rose-nobles and broad moidores
The waiter pulls out of their pockets by scores."  
(INGOLDSBY, The Hand of Glory.)

from Port. moeda de ouro, money of gold.

Sometimes the same word reaches us through different languages. Thus charge is French and cargo is Spanish, both belonging to a Vulgar Lat. caracare from carrus, vehicle. In old commercial records we often find the Anglo-Norman form cark, a load, burden, which survives now only in a metaphorical sense, e.g. carking, i.e. burdensome, care. Lat. domino has given us through French both dame and dam, and through Spanish duenna; while Ital. donna occurs in the compound madonna and the donah of the East End costermonger. Lat. datum, given, becomes Fr. dé and Eng. die (plural dies). Its Italian doublet is dado, originally cubical pedestal, hence part of wall representing continuous pedestal. Scrimmage and skirmish are variant spellings of Fr. escarmouche, from Ital. scaramuccia, of German origin (see p. 64, n.). But we have also, more immediately from Italian, the form scaramouch. Blount's Glossographia

1 See p. 120. The aristocracy of the horse is still testified to by the use of sire and dam for his parents.
FROM FRENCH DIALECTS 143

(1674) mentions Searamoche, “a famous Italian Zani (see p. 45), or mimick, who acted here in England, 1673.” Scaramouch was one of the stock characters of the old Italian comedy, which still exists as the harlequinade of the Christmas pantomime, and of which some traces survive in the Punch and Judy show. He was represented as a cowardly braggart dressed in black. The golfer’s stance is a doublet of the poet’s stanza, both of them belonging to Lat. stare, to stand. Stance is Old French and stanza is Italian, “a stance or staffe of verses or songs” (Florio). A stanza is then properly a pause or resting place, just as a verse, Lat. versus, is a “turning” to the begining of the next line.

Different French dialects have supplied us with many doublets. Old Fr. chacier (chasser), Vulgar Lat. *captiare, for captare, a frequentative of capere, to take, was in Picard cachier. This has given Eng. catch, which is thus a doublet of chase. In cater (see p. 63) we have the Picard form of Fr. acheter, but the true French form survives in the family name Chater.1 In late Latin the neuter adjective capitale, capital, was used of property. This has given, through Old Fr. chatel, our chattel, while the doublet catel has given cattle, now limited to what was once the most important form of property. Fr. cheptel is still used of cattle farmed out on a kind of profit-sharing system. This restriction of the meaning of cattle is paralleled by Scot. aver, farm beasts, from Old Fr. aver (avoir), property, goods. The history of the word fee, Anglo-Sax. feoh, cattle, cognate with Lat. pecus, whence pecunia, money, also takes us back to the times when a man’s wealth was estimated by his flocks and herds; but, in this case, the sense development is exactly reversed.

1 Sometimes this name is for chater, echeateur (p. 84).
2 Cf. avoirdepot, earlier aver de pois (poids), goods sold by weight.
Fr. jumeau, twin, was earlier gemeau, still used by Corneille, and earlier still gemel, Lat. gemellus, diminutive of geminus, twin. From one form we have the gimbals, or twin pivots, which keep the compass horizontal. Shakespeare uses it of clockwork—

"I think, by some odd gimmals, or device,
Their arms are set like clocks, still to strike on."

(1 Henry VI., i. 2.)

and also speaks of a gimmal bit (Henry V., iv. 2). In the 17th century we find numerous allusions to gimmal rings (variously spelt). The toothsome jumble, known to the Midlands as "brandy-snap," is the same word, this delicacy having apparently at one time been made in links. We may compare the obsolete Ital. sortelli, lit. "little twists," explained by Torriano as "winding simnels, wreathed jumbals."

An accident of spelling may disguise the origin and meaning of a word. Tret is Fr. trait, in Old French also tret, Lat. tractus, pull (of the scale). It was usually an allowance of four pounds in a hundred and four, which was supposed to be equal to the sum of the "turns of the scale," which would be in the purchaser's favour if the goods were weighed in small quantities. Trait is still so used in modern French.

A difference in spelling, originally accidental, but perpetuated by an apparent difference of meaning, is seen in flour, flower; metal, mettle. Flour is the flower, i.e. the finest part, of meal, Fr. fleur de farine, "flower, or the finest meale" (Cotgrave). In the Nottingham Guardian (29th Aug. 1911) I read that—

"Mrs Kernahan is among the increasing number of persons who do not discriminate between metal and mettle, and writes: 'Margaret was on her metal.'"
If might be added that this author is in the excellent company of Shakespeare—

"See whe'r their basest metal be not mov'd."

(\textit{Julius Caesar, i. i.})

There is no more etymological difference between \textit{metal} and \textit{mettle} than between the "temper" of a cook and that of a sword-blade.

\textit{Parson} is a doublet of \textit{person}, the priest perhaps being taken as "representing" the Church, for \textit{persona}, an actor's mask, from \textit{per}, through, and \textit{sonare}, to sound\textsuperscript{1} was also used of a costumed character or \textit{dramatis persona}. \textit{Mask}, which ultimately belongs to an Arabic word meaning buffoon, has had a sense development exactly opposite to that of \textit{person}, its modern meaning corresponding to the Lat. \textit{persona} from which the latter started. \textit{Parson} shows the popular pronunciation of \textit{er}, now modified by the influence of traditional spelling. We still have it in \textit{Berkeley, clerk, Derby, sergeant}, as we formerly did in \textit{merchant}. Proper names, in which the orthography depends on the "taste and fancy of the speller," or the phonetic theories of the old parish clerk, are often more in accordance with the pronunciation, \textit{e.g.}, \textit{Barclay, Clark, Darby, Sargent, Marchant}. \textit{Posy}, in both its senses, is a contraction of \textit{poesy}, the flowers of a nosegay expressing by their arrangement a sentiment like that engraved on a ring. The latter use is perhaps obsolete—

"A hoop of gold, a paltry ring
That she did give me; whose posy was
For all the world like cutler's poetry
Upon a knife: 'Love me and leave me not.'"

(\textit{Merchant of Venice, v. i.})

\textit{The poetic word glamour is the same as grammar.}

\textsuperscript{1} It is possible that this is a case of early folk-etymology and that \textit{persona} is an Etruscan word.
which had in the Middle Ages the sense of mysterious learning. From the same source we have the French corruption grimoire, "a booke of conjuring" (Cotgrave). Glamour and grammare were both revived by Scott—

"A moment then the volume spread,
And one short spell therein he read;
It had much of glamour might."

(Lay of the Last Minstrel, iii. 9.)

"And how he sought he castle high,
That morn, by help of grammare."

(Ibid., v. 27.)

For the change of r to l we have the parallel of flounce for older frounce (p. 60). Quire is the same word as quair, in the "King's Quair," i.e. book. Its Mid. English form is quayer, Old Fr. quaer, caer (cahier), Vulgar Lat. *quaternum, for quaternion, "a quier with foure sheets" (Cooper).

Oriental words have sometimes come into the language by very diverse routes. Sirup, or syrup; sherbet, and (rum)-shrub are of identical origin, ultimately Arabic. Sirup, which comes through Spanish and French, was once used, like treacle (p. 75), of medicinal compounds—

"Not poppy, nor mandragora,
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world,
Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep
Which thou ow'dst yesterday."

(Othello, iii. 3.)

Sherbet and shrub are directly borrowed through the medium of travellers—

"I smoke on shrub and water, myself;" said Mr Omer."

(David Copperfield, Ch. 30.)

Sepoy, used of Indian soldiers in the English service, is the same as staft, the French name for the Algerian
cavalry. Both come ultimately from a Persian adjective meaning "military," and the French form was at one time used also in English in speaking of Oriental soldiery—

"The Janizaries and Spahies came in a tumultuary manner to the Seraglio." (HOWELL, *Familiar Letters*, 1623.)

*Tulip* is from Fr. *tulipe*, formerly *tulipan*, "the delicate flower called a *tulipa*, *tulipie*, or Dalmatian cap" (Cotgrave). It is a doublet of *turban*. The German *Tulpe* was also earlier *Tulipan*.

The humblest of medieval coins was the *maravedi*, which came from Spain at an early date, though not early enough for Robin Hood to have said to Isaac of York—

"I will strip thee of every *maravedi* thou hast in the world."

(*Ivanhoe*, Ch. 33.)

The name is due to the Moorish dynasty of the *Almaravides* or *Marabouts*. This Arabic name, which means hermit, was given also to a kind of stork, the *marabout*, on account of the solitary and sober habits which have earned in India for a somewhat similar bird the name *adjutant* (p. 34).

*Cipher* and *sero* do not look like doublets, but both of them come from the same Arabic word. The medieval Lat. *sephyrum* connects the two forms. *Crimson* and *carmine*, both of them ultimately from Old Spanish, are not quite doublets, but both belong to *hermes*, the cochineal insect, of Arabic origin.

The relationship between *cipher* and *sero* is perhaps better disguised than that between *furnish* and *veneer*, though this is by no means obvious. *Veneer*, spelt *finner* by Smollett, is Ger. *fournieren*, borrowed from Fr.
fournir\(^1\) and specialised in meaning. Ebers' German 
*Dict.* (1796) has *furnieren*, “to inlay with several sorts 
of wood, to veneer.”

The doublets selected for discussion among the 
hundreds which exist in the language reveal many 
etymological relationships which would hardly be 
suspected at first sight. Many other words might be 
quoted which are almost doublets. Thus *sergeant*, 
Fr. *sergent*, Lat. *serviens*, *serviendi*, is almost a doublet of 
*servant*, the present participle of Fr. *servir*. The fabric 
called *drill* or *drilling* is from Ger. *Drillich*, “tick, 
linnen-cloth woven of three threads” (Ludwig). This 
is an adaptation of Lat. *trilix*, *trilic*, which, through 
Fr. *treillis*, has given Eng. *trellis*. We may compare 
the older *twill*, of Anglo-Saxon origin, cognate with 
Ger. *Zwilch* or *Zwillich*, “linnen woven with a double 
thread” (Ludwig). *Robe*, from French, is cognate with 
*rob*, and with Ger. *Raub*, booty, the conqueror decking 
himself in the spoils of the conquered. *Musk* is a 
doublet of *meg* in *nutmeg*, Fr. *noix muscade*. In Mid. 
English we find *note-mugge*, and Cotgrave has the 
diminutive *muguette*, “a nutmeg”; cf. modern Fr. 
muguet, the lily of the valley. Fr. *dîner* and *déjeuner* 
both represent Vulgar Lat. *dis-junare*, to break fast, 
from *jejunus*, fasting. The difference of form is due to 
the shifting of the accent in the Latin conjugation, e.g., 
*dis-junâre* gives Old Fr. *disner* (*dîner*), while *dis-junât* 
gives Old Fr. *desjune* (*déjeune*).

*Admiral*, earlier *amiral*, comes through French from 
the *Arab. amir*, an *emir*. Its Old French forms are 
numerous, and the one which has survived in English 
may be taken as an abbreviation of *Arab. amir al bahr*, 
*emir* on the sea. Greco-Lat. *pandura*, a stringed instru-

\(^1\) Our verbs in *-ir* are from the *-es* stem of French verbs in *-ir*. This 
*-ir*, as in *fournissant*, represents the *-is* of Latin inchoative verbs.
ment, has produced an extraordinary number of corru-
plications, among which some philologists rank mandoline.
Eng. banjore, now obsolete, was once a fairly common
word, and from it, or from some cognate Romance form,
comes the negro corruption banjo—

"What is this, mamma? it is not a guitar, is it?" 'No, my
dear, it is called a banjore; it is an African instrument, of
which the negroes are particularly fond.'" (Miss Edgeworth, Belinda,
Ch. 18.)

Florio has pandora, pandura, "a musical instrument
with three strings, a kit, a croude, a rebecke." Kit,
used by Dickens—

"He had a little fiddle, which at school we used to call a kit,
under his left arm." (Bleak House, Ch. 14.)

seems to be a clipped form from Old French dialect
guiterne, for guiterne, Greco-Lat. cithara. Cotgrave
explains mandore as a "kitt, small gitterne." The
doublet guitar is from Spanish.

The two pretty words dimity and samite—

"An arm
Rose up from out the bosom of the lake,
Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful,
Holding the sword."

(Tennyson, Morte d'Arthur, l. 29.)

are both connected with Gk. μίτος, thread. Dimity is the
plural, dimiti, of Ital. dimito, "a kind of course cotton
or flannel" (Florio), from Greco-Lat. dimitus, double
thread (cf. twill, p. 148). Samite, Old Fr. samit, whence
Ger. Samt, velvet, is in medieval Latin γεμάμιτις,
six-thread; this is Byzantine Gk. ἕκαμίτος, whence also
Old Slavonic aksamit. The Italian form is sciamito,
"a kind of sleeve, feret, or filosello silke" (Florio). The
word feret used here by Florio is from Ital. fioretto, little

1 See Crowther, p. 176.
flower. It was also called *floret* silk. Florio explains the plural *fioretti* as "a kind of course silke called *flloret* or *ferret* silke," and Cotgrave has *fleuret* "course silke, *floret* silke." This doublet of *floweret* is not obsolete in the sense of tape—

"Twas so fram'd and express'd no tribunal could shake it,
And firm as red wax and black *ferret* could make it"

(INGOLDSBY, The Housewarming.)

*Parish* and *diocese* are closely related, *parish*, Fr. *paroisse*, representing Greco-Lat. *par-oikia* (oikos, a house), and *diocese* coming through Old French from Greco-Lat. *di-oikesis*. *Skirt* is the Scandinavian doublet of *skirt*, from Vulgar Lat. *ex-curtus*, which has also given us *short*. The form without the prefix appears in Fr. *court*, Ger. *kurs*, and the English diminutive *kirtle*—

"What stuff wilt have a *kirtle* of?"
(2 Henry IV., ii. 4.)

These are all very early loan words.

A new drawing-room game for amateur philologists would be to trace relationships between words which have no apparent connection. In discussing, a few years ago, a lurid book on the "Mysteries of Modern London," Punch remarked that the existence of a *villa* seemed to be proof presumptive of that of a *villain*. This is etymologically true. An Old French *vilain*, "a villaine, slave, bondman, servile tenant" (Cotgrave), was a peasant attached to his lord's *ville* or domain, Lat. *villa*. For the degeneration in meaning we may compare Eng. *boor* and *churl* (p. 84), and Fr. *manant*, a clodhopper, lit. a dweller (see *manor*, p. 9). A *butcher*, Fr. *boucher*, must originally have dealt in goat's flesh, Fr. *bouc*, goat; cf. Ital. *beccai*, butcher, and *becco*, goat. Hence *butcher* and *buck* are related. The extension of meaning of *broker*, an Anglo-Norman form of *brocheur,*
BROKER—WALNUT

shows the importance of the wine trade in the Middle Ages. A broker was at first one who "broached" casks with a 
broche, which means in modern French both brooch and spit. The essential part of a brooch is the pin or spike. 
When Kent says that Cornwall and Regan—

"Summon'd up their meiny, straight took horse."

(Lear, ii. 4.)

he is using a common Mid. English and Tudor word which comes, through Old Fr. maisnie, from Vulgar Lat. *mansionata, a houseful. A menial is a member of such a body. An Italian cognate is
masnadiere, "a ruffler, a swashbuckler, a swaggerer, a high way theefe, a hackster" (Florio). Those inclined to moralise may see in these words a proof that the arrogance of the great man's flunkey was curbed in England earlier than in Italy. Old Fr. maisnie is now replaced by ménage, Vulgar Lat. *mansionaticum. A derivative of this word is ménagerie, first applied to the collection of household animals, but now to a "wild beast show."

A bonfire was formerly a bone-fire. We find bone-fire, "ignis ossium," in a Latin dictionary of 1483, and Cooper explains pyra by "bone-fire, wherein men's bodies were burned." Apparently the word is due to the practice of burning the dead after a victory. Hexham has bone-fire, "een been-vier, dat is, als men victorie brandt." Walnut is related to Wales, Cornwall, the Walloons, Wallachia and Sir William Wallace. It means "foreign" nut. This very wide spread wal is supposed to represent the Celtic tribal name Volca. It was applied by the English to the Celts, and by the Germans to the French and Italians, especially the

1 But the early use of the word in the sense of middle-man points to contamination with some other word of different meaning.
latter, whence the earlier Ger. *welsche Nuss*, for *Walnuss*. The German Swiss use it of the French Swiss, hence the canton *Wallis* or *Valais*. The Old French name for the *walnut is noix gaule*, Lat. *Gallica*. The relation of *umbrella* to *umber* is pretty obvious. The former is Italian—

“A little shadow, a little round thing that women bare in their hands to shadow them. Also a broad brimmed hat to keepe off heat and rayne. Also a kinde of round thing like a round skreene that gentlemen use in Italie in time of sommer or when it is very hote, to keepe the sunne from them when they are riding by the way.” (Florio.)

*Umber* is Fr. *terre d’ombre*, shadow earth—

“I’ll put myself in poor and mean attire,
And with a kind of umber smirch my face.”

(*As You Like It*, i. 3.)

*Ballad*, originally a *dancing song*, Prov. *ballada*, is a *doublet* of *ballet*, and thus related to *ball*. We find a late Lat. *ballare*, to dance, in Saint Augustine, but the history of this group of words is obscure. The sense development of *carol* is very like that of ballad. It is from Old Fr. *carolle*, “a kinde of dance wherein many may dance together; also, a *caroll*, or Christmas song” (Cotgrave). The form *corolla* is found in Provençal, and *carolle* in Old French is commonly used, like Ger. *Krans*, garland, and Lat. *corona*, of a social or festive ring of people. Hence it seems a reasonable conjecture that the origin of the word is Lat. *corolla*, a little garland.

Many “chapel” people would be shocked to know that *chapel* means properly the sanctuary in which a saint’s relics are deposited. The name was first applied to the chapel in which was preserved the *cape* or cloak of St. Martin of Tours. The doublet *capel* survives in *Capel Court*, near the Exchange. Ger. *Kapelle* also means, orchestra or military band. *Toccin* is literally
"touch sign." Fr. toquer, to tap, beat, cognate with touch, survives in "tuck of drum" and tucket—

"Then let the trumpets sound
The tucket sonance and the note to mount."

(Henry V., iv. 2.)

while sinet, the diminutive of Old Fr. sin, sign, has given sennet, common in the stage directions of Elizabethan plays in a sense very similar to that of tucket.

Junket is from Old' Fr. joncade, "a certaine spoone-meat, made of creame, rose-water, and sugar" (Cotgrave), Ital. giuncata, "a kinde of fresh cheese and creame, so called because it is brought to market upon rushes; also a junket" (Florio). It is thus related to jonquil, which comes, through French, from Span. junquillo, a diminutive from Lat. juncus, rush. The plant is named from its rush-like leaves. Ditto, Italian, lit. "said," and disity; Old Fr. dité, are both past participles,1 from the Latin verbs dico and dicto respectively. The nave of a church is from Fr. nef, still occasionally used in poetry in its original sense of ship, Lat. navis. It is thus related to navy, Old Fr. navie, a derivative of navis. Similarly Ger. Schiff is used in the sense of nave, though the metaphor is variously explained.

The old word cole, cabbage, its north country and Scottish equivalent kail, Fr. chou (Old Fr. chot), and Ger. Kohl, are all from Lat. caulis, cabbage; cf. cauli-flower. We have the Dutch form in colza, which comes, through French, from Du. kool-saad, cabbage seed. Cabbage itself is Fr. caboché, a Picard derivative of Lat. caput, head. In modern French caboché corresponds to our vulgar "chump." A goshawk is a goose hawk, so called from its preying on poultry. Merino is related to mayor, which comes, through French, from Lat. maior,

1 But the usual Italian past participle of dire is detto.
greater. Span. merino, Vulgar Lat. *majorinus, means both a magistrate and a superintendent of sheep-walks. From the latter meaning comes that of “sheepe driven from the winter pastures to the sommer pastures, or the wooll of those sheepe” (Percyvall). Portcullis is from Old Fr. porte coulisse, sliding door. Fr. coulisse is still used of many sliding contrivances, especially in connection with stage scenery, but in the portcullis sense it is replaced by herse (see p. 75), except in the language of heraldry. The masculine form coulis means a clear broth, or cullis, as it was called in English up to the 18th century. This suggests colander, which, like portcullis, belongs to Lat. colare, “to streine” (Cooper), whence Fr. couler, to flow.

Solder, formerly spelt sowder or sodder, and still so pronounced by the plumber, represents Fr. soudure, from the verb souder; cf. batter from Old Fr. batture, fritter from Fr. friture, and tenter (hooks)1 from Fr. tenture. Fr. souder is from Lat. solidare, to consolidate. Fr. sou, formerly sol, a halfpenny, comes, like Ital. soldo, from Lat. solidus, the meaning of which appears also in the Italian participle soldato, a soldier, lit. a paid man. This Italian word has passed into French and German, displacing the older cognates soudard and Soldner, which now have a depreciatory sense. Eng. soldier is of Old French origin. It is represented in medieval Latin by sol[t]darius, glossed sowdeor in a vocabulary of the 15th century. As in solder, the _l has been re-introduced by learned influence, but the vulgar solder is nearer the original pronunciation.

1 Hooks used for stretching cloth.
CHAPTER XI

HOMONYMS

Modern English contains some six or seven hundred pairs or sets of homonyms, i.e., of words identical in sound and spelling but differing in meaning and origin. The New English Dictionary recognises provisionally nine separate nouns rack. The subject is a difficult one to deal with, because one word sometimes develops such apparently different meanings that the original identity becomes obscured, and even, as we have seen in the case of flour and mettle (p. 144), a difference of spelling may result. When Denys of Burgundy said to the physician—

"Go to! He was no fool who first called you leeches."

(Cloister and Hearth, Ch. 26.)

he was unaware that both leeches represent Anglo-Sax. lece, healer. On the other hand, a resemblance of form may bring about a contamination of meaning. The verb to gloss or glose, means simply to explain or translate, Greco-Lat. glossa, tongue, etc.; but, under the influence of the unrelated gloss, superficial lustre, it has acquired the sense of specious interpretation.

That part of a helmet called the beaver—

"I saw young Harry, with his beaver on,
His cuisses on his thigh, gallantly arm'd,
Rise from the ground like feather'd Mercury."

(1 Henry IV., iv 1.)
has, of course, no connection with the animal whose fur has been used for some centuries for expensive hats. It comes from Old Fr. bavière, a child’s bib, now replaced by bavette, from baver, to slobber. It may be noted *en passant* that many of the revived medieval words which sound so picturesque in Scott are of very prosaic origin. Thus the *basnet—*

“My basnet to a prentice cap,
Lord Surrey’s o’er the Till.”

*(Marmion, vi. 21.)*

or close-fitting steel cap worn under the ornamental helmet, is Fr. bassinet, a little basin. It was also called a *kettle hat*, or *pot*. Another obsolete name given to a steel cap was a privy *pallet*, from Fr. *palette*, a barber’s bowl, a “helmet of Mambrino.” To a brilliant living monarch we owe the phrase “mailed fist,” a translation of Ger. *gepanserte Faust*. *Panzer*, a cuirass, is etymologically a *pauncher*, or defence for the paunch. We may compare an article of female apparel, which took its name from a more polite name for this part of the anatomy, and which Shakespeare uses even in the sense of *Panzer*. Imogen, taking the papers from her bosom, says—

“What is here?
The scriptures of the loyal Leonatus,
All turn’d to heresy? Away, away,
Corrupters of my faith! You shall no more
Be stomachers to my heart.”

*(Cymbeline, iii. 4.)*

Sometimes homonyms seem to be due to the lowest type of folk-etymology, the instinct for making an unfamiliar word “look like something” (see p. 128, n.). To this instinct we owe the nautical *companion* (p. 165). *Trepas*, for *trapan*, to entrap, cannot have been confused with the surgical *trepan* (p. 109), although it has
been assimilated to it. The compound in which the victims of "Chinese slavery" languished is the Malay kampong, an enclosure.

The scent called bergamot takes its name from Bergamo, in Italy, whence also Shakespeare's bergomask dance—

"Will it please you to see the epilogue, or hear a Bergomask dance between two of our company?"

(Midsummer Night's Dream, v. i.)

but the bergamot pear is derived from Turkish beg armudi, prince's pear. With beg, prince, cf. bey and begum. The burden of a song is from Fr. bourdon, "a drone, or dorre-bee; also, the humming, or buzzing, of bees; also, the drone of a bag-pipe" (Cotgrave). It is of doubtful origin, but is not related to burden, a load, which is connected with the verb to bear.

To cashier, i.e., break, a soldier, is from Du. casseeren, which is borrowed from Fr. casser, to break, Lat. quassare, frequentative of quartere, to shatter. In the 16th and 17th centuries we also find cass and cash, which come immediately from French, and are thus doublets of quash. Cotgrave has casser, "to casse, cassere, discharge." The past participle of the obsolete verb to cass is still in military use—

"But the colonel said he must go, and he (the drum horse) was cast in due form and replaced by a washy, bay beast, as ugly as a mule." (Kipling, The Rout of the White Hussars.)

The other cashier is of Italian origin. He takes charge of the cash, which formerly meant "counting-house," and earlier still "safe," from Ital. cassa, "a merchant's cashe, or counter" (Florio). This comes from Lat. capsœ, a coffer, so that cash is a doublet of case, Fr. caisse. The goldsmith's term chase is for enchase, Fr. enchasser, "to enchace, or set, in gold, etc." (Cotgrave),
from chasse, coffer, shrine, also from Lat. capsa. From the same word comes (window) sash.

Gammon, from Mid. Eng. gamen, now reduced to game, survives as a slang word and also in the compound backgammon. In a gammon of bacon we have the Picard form of Fr. jambon, a ham, an augmentative of jambe, leg. Cotgrave has jambon, "a gammon." Gambit is related, from Ital. gambetto, "a tripping up of one's heels" (Torriano). A game leg is in dialect a gammy leg. This is Old Fr. gambi, "bent, crooked, bowed" (Cotgrave), which is still used in some French dialects in the sense of lame. It comes from the same Celtic root as jambe, etc.

Host, an army, now used only poetically or metaphorically, is from Old Fr. ost, army, Lat. hostis, enemy. The host who receives us is Old Fr. ost (hôte), Lat. hospes, hospit, guest. These two hosts are, however, ultimately related. It is curious that, while modern Fr. hôte (hospes) means both "host" and "guest," the other host (hostis) is, very far back, a doublet of guest, the ground-meaning of both being "stranger." "It is remarkable in what opposite directions the Germans and Romans have developed the meaning of the old hereditary name for 'stranger.' To the Roman the stranger becomes an enemy; among the Germans he enjoys the greatest privileges, a striking confirmation of what Tacitus tells us in his Germania."1 In a dog kennel we have the Norman form of Fr. cheni, related to chien; but kennel a gutter—

"Go, hop me over every kennel home."

(Taming of the Shrew, iv, 3.)

is a doublet of channel and canal.

"Oh villain! thou stolest a cup of sack eighteen years ago, and wert taken with the manner." (1 Henry IV., ii. 4.)

1 Kluge, Etymologisches Wörterbuck.
says Prince Hal to Bardolph. In the old editions this is spelt manour or mainour and means "in the act." It is an Anglo-French doublet of manœuvre, late Lat. manu-opera, handiwork, and is thus related to its homonym manner, Fr. manière, from manier, to handle. Another doublet of manœuvre is manure, now a euphemism for dung, but formerly used of the act of tillage—

"The manuring hand of the tiller shall root up all that burdens the soil." (Milton, Reason of Church Government.)

Inure is similarly formed from Old Fr. enœuvrer, literally "to work in," hence to accustom to toil.

John Gilpin's "good friend the calender," i.e. the cloth-presser, has nothing to do with the calender which indicates the calends of the month, nor with the calender, or Persian monk, of the Arabian Nights, whom Mr Pecksniff described as a "one-eyed almanack"—

"'A one-eyed calender, I think, sir,' faltered Tom.

"'They are pretty nearly the same thing, I believe,' said Mr Pecksniff, smiling compassionately; 'or they used to be in my time.'" (Martin Chuzzlewit, Ch. 6.)

The verb to calender, to press and gloss cloth, etc., is from Old Fr. calender (calander), "to sleek, smooth, plane, or polish, linnen cloth, etc." (Cotgrave). This word is generally considered to be related to cylinder, a conjecture which is supported by obsolete Fr. calende, used of the "rollers" by means of which heavy stones are moved.

A craft, or association of masters, was once called a mistery (for mastery or maistrie), usually misspelt mystery by association with a word of quite different origin and meaning. This accidental resemblance is often played on—

"Painting, sir, I have heard say, is a mystery; but what
mystery there should be in hanging, if I should be hanged, I cannot imagine." (Measure for Measure, iv. 2.)

For the pronunciation, cf. mister, for master, and mistress. The French for "mistery" is métier, earlier mestier, "a trade, occupation, misterie, handicraft" (Cotgrave), from Old Fr. maistier, Lat. magisterium. In its other senses Fr. métier represents Lat. ministerium, service.

Pawn, a pledge, is from Old Fr. pan, with the same meaning. The origin of this word, cognates of which occur in the Germanic languages, is unknown. The pawn at chess is Fr. pion, a pawn, formerly also a footsoldier, used contemptuously in modern French for a junior assistant master. This represents a Vulgar Lat. *pedo, pedon-, from pes, foot; cf. Span. peon, "a footman, a pawne at chesse, a pioner, or laborer" (Percyvall). In German the pawn is called Bauer, peasant, a name also given to the knave in the game of euchre, whence American bower—

"At last he put down a right bower, which the same Nye had dealt unto me." (Bret Harte, The Heathen Chinee.)

When Jack Bunce says—

"If they hurt but one hair of Cleveland's head, there will be the devil to pay, and no pitch hot." (Pirate, Ch. 36.)

he is using a nautical term which has no connection with Fr. payer. To pay, i.e. to pitch (a ship), is from Old Fr. peier or poier, Lat. picare, from pix, pitch. Fr. limon, a lime, has given Eng. lemon, but "lemon sole" is from Fr. limande, a flat-fish, dab. A quarry from which stone

1 Now abbreviated to miss in a special sense.
2 The Bowery of New York was formerly a homestead.
3 Knave of trumps.
4 In modern French the lemon is called citron and the citron eblati.
is obtained was formerly *quarrer*, Old Fr. *quarrière* (carrière), a derivative of Lat. *quadrus*; cf. *quadratarius*, "a squarer of marble" (Cooper). The *quarry* of the hunter has changed its form and meaning. In Mid. English we find *quarrel* and *quirel*, from Old Fr. *cuirelle*, now *cuirde*, "a (dog's) reward; the hounds' fees of, or part in, the game they have killed" (Cotgrave). The Old French form means "skinful" (cf. *poignée*, fistful), the hounds' reward being spread on the skin of the slain animal. It is thus related to *cuirass*, originally used of leathern armour. In Shakespeare *quarry* usually means a heap of dead game—

"Would the nobility lay aside their ruth,
And let me use my sword, I'd make a *quarry*
With thousands of these quarter'd slaves, as high
As I could pick my lance."

*(Coriolanus, i. i.)*

In modern English it is applied rather to the animal pursued. Related to the first *quarry* is *quarrel*, the square-headed bolt shot from a crossbow—

"It is reported by William Brito that the arcubalist or arbalist was first shewed to the French by our king Richard the First, who was shortly after slain by a *quarrel* thereof."

*(Camden, Remains concerning Britain.)*

It comes from Old Fr. *carrel*, of which the modern form, *carreau*, is used of many four-sided objects; e.g., a square tile, the diamond at cards, a pane of glass. In the last sense both *quarrel* and *quarry* are still used by glaziers.

*1 In the chapter on "Artillery." So also, in the Authorised Version—"Jonathan gave his artillery (his bow and arrows) unto his lad, and said unto him, 'Go, carry them into the city.'" (1 Samuel, xx. 40.) It is curious that both *artillery* and *gun* belong to the pre-gunpowder period, and that the origin of neither word is as yet satisfactorily explained.*
In a "school of porpoises" we have a Dutch word for crowd. The older spelling is scull—

"And there they fly, or die, like scaled sculls,
Before the belching whale."

(Troilus and Cressida, v. 5.)

A sorrel horse and the plant called sorrel are both French words of German origin. The adjective, used in venery of a buck of the third year, is a diminutive of Old Fr. sor, which survives in hareng saur, red herring, and is perhaps cognate with Eng. sear—

"The sere, the yellow leaf."

(Macbeth, v. 3.)

The plant name is related to sour. Its modern French form surelle occurs now only in dialect, having been superseded by oseille, which appears to be due to the mixture of two words meaning sour, sharp, viz., Vulgar Lat. *acētula and Greco-Lat. oxalis.

The verb tattoo, to adorn the skin with patterns, is Polynesian. The military tattoo is Dutch. It was earlier tap-to, and was the signal for closing the "taps," or taverns. The first recorded occurrence of the word is in Colonel Hutchinson’s orders to the garrison of Nottingham, the original of which hangs in the Nottingham City Library—

“If any-one shall bee found tiplinge or drinkinge in any taverne, inne, or alehouse after the houre of nyne of the clock at night, when the tap-too beates, he shall pay 2s. 6d.” (1644.)

Cf. Ger. Zapfenstreich, lit. tap-stroke, the name of a play which was produced some years ago in London under the title "Lights Out." Ludwig explains Zapfenschlag or Zapfenstreich, as "die Zeit da die Soldaten aus den Schencken Heimgehen müssen, the tap-tow."
WRONG ASSOCIATION

Tassel, in "tassel gentle"

"O, for a falconer's voice,
To lure this tassel-gentle back again."

(Romeo and Juliet, ii. 2.)

is for tercel or tiercel, the male hawk, "so tarmmed,
because he is, commonly, a third part less than the female" (Cotgrave, s.v. tiercel). The true reason for
the name is doubtful. The pendent ornament called a
tassel is a diminutive of Mid. Eng. tasse, a heap, bunch,
Fr. tas. Tent wine is Span. vino tinto, i.e., coloured—

"Of this last there's little comes over right, therefore the
vintners make Tent (which is a name for all wines in Spain,
except white) to supply the place of it" (Howell, Familiar Letters,
1634).

The other tent is from the Old French past participle of
tendre, to stretch.

The Shakesperian utterance—

"Rather than so, come, fate, into the list,
And champion me to the utterance."

(Macbeth, iii. 1.)

is the Fr. entrance, in combat à entrance, i.e., to the
extreme, which belongs to Lat. ultra. It is quite un-
connected with the verb to utter, from out.

We have seen how, in the case of some homo-
ynyms, confusion arises, and a popular connection is
established, between words which are quite unrelated.
The same sort of association often springs up between
words which, without being homonyms, have some
accidental resemblance in form or meaning, or in both.
Such association may bring about curious changes in
form and meaning. Touchy, which now conveys the
idea of sensitiveness to touch, is corrupted from teetchy—

"Teetchy and wayward was thy infancy." (Richard III., iv. 4.)

The original meaning was something like "infected,
tainted," from Old Fr. teche (tache), a spot. The word
surround has completely changed its meaning through association with round. It comes from Old Fr. surrondre, to overflow, Lat. super-undare, and its meaning and origin were quite clear to the 16th-century lexicographers. Thus Cooper has inundo, “to overflowe, to surround.” A French bishop carries a crosse, and an archbishop a croix. These words are of separate origin. From crosse, which does not mean “cross,” comes our derivative croise, carried by both bishops and archbishops. It is etymologically identical, as its shape suggests, with the shepherd’s crook, and the bat used in playing lacrosse.

The prophecy of the pessimistic ostler that, owing to motor-cars—

"Osses soon will all be in the circusses, And if you want an ostler, try the work'uses."

(E. V. Lucas.)

shows by what association the meaning of ostler, Old Fr. hostelier (hôtelier), has changed. A belfry has nothing to do with bells. Old Fr. berfroi (beffroi) was a tower used in warfare. It comes from two German words represented by modern bergen, to hide, guard, and Friede, peace, so that it means “guard-peace.” The triumph of the form belfry is due to association with bell, but the l is originally due to dissimilation, since we find beffroi also in Old French. The same dissimilation is seen in Fr. auberge, inn, Prov. alberga, which comes from Old High Ger. hari, an army, and bergen; cf. our harbour (p. 2) and häringer (p. 90). Scabbard is from Old Fr. escarbere, earlier escalbiso, by dissimilation for escarberc, from Old High Ger. scrār, a blade (cf. ploughshare), and bergen. Cf. hauberk, guard-neck, Ger. Hals, neck.

² Hence, or rather from Du. lab, the house-holes, the “throat” through which the cable runs.
WRONG ASSOCIATION 165

The butlery is not so named from butter, but from bottles. It is for butlery, as chancery (see p. 88) is for chancery. It is not, of course, now limited to bottles, any more than the pantry to bread or the larder to bacon, Fr. lard, Lat. laridum. The spence, aphetic for dispense, is now known only in dialect—

"I am gaun to eat my dinner quietly in the spence."

(Old Mortality, Ch. 3.)

but has given us the name Spencer. The still-room maid is not extinct, but I doubt whether the distilling of strong waters is now carried on in the region over which she presides. A journeyman has nothing to do with journeys in the modern sense of the word, but works à la journée, by the day. Cf. Fr. journalier, "a journeyman; one that works by the day" (Cotgrave), and Ger. Tagelöhner, literally "day-wager." On the other hand, a day-woman (Love's Labour's Lost, i. 2) is an explanatory pleonasm (cf. greyhound, p. 135) for the old word day, servant, milkmaid, etc., whence the common surname Day and the derivative dairy.

A brier pipe is made, not from brier, but from the root of heather, Fr. bruyère, of Celtic origin. A catchpole did not catch polls, i.e. heads, nor did he catch people with a pole, although a very ingenious implement, exhibited in the Tower of London Armoury, is catalogued as a catchpole. The word corresponds to a French compound chasse-poule, catch-hen, in Picard cache-pole, the official's chief duty being to collect dues, or, in default, poultry. For pole, from Fr. poul, cf. polecat, also an enemy of fowls. The companion-ladder on shipboard is a product of folk-etymology. It leads to the kampanje, the Dutch for cabin. This may belong, like cabin, to a late Lat. capanna, hut, which has a very numerous progeny. Kajuit, another Dutch word for cabin, earlier kajute, has given us cuddy.
A carousal is now regarded as a carouse, but the two are quite separate, or, rather, there are two distinct words carousal. One of them is from Fr. caroussel, a word of Italian origin, meaning a pageant or carnival with chariot races and tilting. This word, obsolete in this sense, is sometimes spelt el and accented on the last syllable—

"Before the crystal palace, where he dwells,  
The armed angels hold their carousels."

(ANDREW MARVELL: Lachryma Musarum.)

Ger. Karussell means a roundabout at a fair. Our carousal, if it is the same word, has been affected in sound and meaning by carouse. This comes, probably through French, from Ger. garaus, quite out, in the phrase garaus trinken, i.e., to drink bumpers—

"The queen carouses to thy fortune, Hamlet."

(Hamlet, v. 2.)

Rabelais says that he is not one of those—

"Qui, par force, par oulraige et violence, contraignent les compagnons trinquer voyre carous et allus 1 qui pis est."

(Pantagruel, iii., Prologue.)

The spelling garous, and even garaus, is found in 17th-century English.

It is perhaps unnecessary to say that a maul-stick, Dutch maal-stok, paint-stick, has nothing to do with the verb to maul, formerly to mall, 2 i.e., to hammer. Nor is the painter's lay-figure connected with our verb to lay. It is also, like so many art terms, of Dutch origin, the lay representing Du. lid, limb, cognate with Ger. Glied. 3 The German for lay-figure is Gliederpuppe.

1 Ger. all aus, all out.
2 Hence the Mall and Pall-Mall, where games like croquet were played.
3 The NullPointerException represents the Old High German prefix ge-. Cf. Eng. leak and Ger. Glück.
FOOTPAD—PESTER

joint-doll. Sewel’s *Dutch Dict.* (1766) has *leeman, or ledeman,* “a statue, with pliant limbs for the use of a painter.” A *footpad* is not a rubber-soled highwayman, but a *pad,* or robber, who does his work on foot. He was also called a *padder—*

“‘Ye crack-rope *padder,* born beggar, and bred thief!’ replied the hag.” (*Heart of Midlothian,* Ch. 29.)

*i.e.*, one who takes to the “road,” from Du. *pad,* path. *Pad,* an ambling nag, a “roadster,” is the same word.

*Pen* comes, through Old French, from Lat. *penna,* “a penne, quill, or fet ther” (Cooper), while *pencil* is from Old Fr. *pincel* (*pinceau*), a painter’s brush, from Lat. *penicillus,* a little tail. The modern meaning of *pencil,* which still meant painter’s brush in the 18th century, is due to association with *pen.* The older sense survives in optics and in the expression “pencilled eyebrows.” The *ferrule* of a walking-stick is a distinct word from *ferrule,* an aid to education. The latter is Lat. *ferula,* “an herbe like big fenell, and maye be called fenell giant. Also a rodde, sticke, or paulmer, wherewith children are striken and corrected in schooles, a cane, a reede, a walking staiffe” (Cooper). *Ferrule* is a perversion of earlier *virrel, virrol,* Fr. *virole,* “an iron ring put about the end of a staffe, etc., to strengthen it, and keep it from riving” (Cotgrave).

The modern meaning of *pester* is due to a wrong association with *pest.* Its earlier meaning is to hamper or entangle—

“Confined and *pestered* in this pindold here.”

(*Comus,* l. 7.)

It was formerly *impester,* from Old Fr. *empesterer* (*empetrer*), “to pester, intricate, intangle, trouble, incumber” (Cotgrave), originally to “hobble” a grazing horse with *pasterns,* or shackles (see *pastern,* p. 76).
Mosaic work is not connected with Moses, but with the muses and museum. It comes, through French, from Ital. mosaico, "a kinde of curious stone, worke, of divers colours, checkie worke" (Florio), which is Vulgar Lat. musaicum opus. Sorrow and sorry are quite unrelated. Sorrow is from Anglo-Sax. sorg, sork, cognate with Ger. Sorge, anxiety. Sorry, Mid. Eng. sori, is a derivative of sore, cognate with Ger. sehr, very, lit. "painfully"; cf. English "sore afraid," or the modern "awfully nice," which is in South Germany arg nett, "vexatiously nice."

It is probable that vagabond, Lat. vagabundus, has no etymological connection with vagrant, which appears to come from Old Fr. vaucrant, present participle of vaucer, a common verb in the Picard dialect, perhaps related to Eng. walk. Cotgrave spells it vaucrer, "to range, roame, vagary, wander, idly (idle) it up and down." Cotgrave also attributes to it the special meaning of a ship sailing "whither wind and tide will carry it," the precise sense in which it is used in the 13th-century romance of Aucassin et Nicolette.

Other examples of mistaken association are scullion and scullery (p. 43), and sentry and sentinel (p. 102). Many years ago Punch had a picture by Du Maurier called the "Vikings of Whitby," followed by a companion picture, the "Viqueens." The word is not vi-king but vik-ing, the first syllable probably representing an Old Norse, form of Anglo-Sax. wic, encampment.
CHAPTER XII

FAMILY NAMES

In the study of family names we come across very much the same phenomena as in dealing with other words. They are subject to the same phonetic accidents and to the distortions of folk-etymology, being "altered strangely to significative words by the common sort, who desire to make all to be significative" (Camden, Remains concerning Britain). Doublets and homonyms are of frequent occurrence, and the origin of some names is obscured by the well-meaning efforts of early philologists. It might be expected that a family name would, by its very nature, tend to preserve its original form. This is, however, not the case. In old parish registers one often finds on one page two or three different spellings for the same name, and there are said to be a hundred and thirty variants of Mainwaring.¹ The telescoped pronunciation of long names such as Cholmondeley, Daventry, Marjoriebanks, Strachan, is a familiar phenomenon, and very often the shorter form persists separately, e.g., Posnett and Poslett occur often in Westmoreland for Postlethwaite; Beecham exists by the side of Beauchamp; Saint Clair and Saint Maur are usually reduced to Sinclair and Seymour.

¹ This is probably the record for a proper name, but does not by any means equal that of the word cushion, of the plural of which about four hundred variants are found in old wills and inventories.
FAMILY NAMES

Boon and Moon disguise the aristocratic Bohun and Mohun. In a story by Mr Wells, Miss Winchelsea's Heart, the name Snooks is gradually improved to Sevenoaks, from which in all probability it originally came, via Sennight for seven-night, and such names as Fivesh, Twelvetrees, etc. Folk-etymology converts Arblaster, the cross-bowman, into Alabaster, Thurgod into Thoroughgood, and the Cornish Hannidal into Honeyball. Beaufoy is a grammatical monstrosity. Its older form is Beaufou, fine beech (see p. 129), with an ambiguous second syllable. Malthus looks like Latin, but is identical with Malthouse, just as Bellows is for Bellhouse, Loftus for Lofthouse, and Bacchus, fined for intoxication, Jan. 5, 1911, for Bakehouse. But many odd names which are often explained as corruptions may also have their face-value. The first Gotobed was a skoggard, Godbehere was fond of this pious form of greeting, and Goodbeer purveyed sound liquor. With Toogood, perhaps ironical, we may compare Fr. Troplong, and with Goodenough a lady named Belle-assez, often mentioned in the Pipe Rolls. Physick occurs as a medieval nickname."

Family names fall into four great classes, which are, in descending order of size, local, baptismal, functional, and nicknames. But we have a great many homonyms, names capable of two or more explanations. Thus Bell may be for Fr. le bel or from a shop-sign, Collet a diminutive of Nicholas or an aaphetic form of acolyte. Dennis is usually for Dionysius, but sometimes for le Danois, the Dane; Gillott, and all family names beginning with Gill-, may be from Gillian (see p. 48), or from Fr. Guillaume. A famous member of the latter family was Guillotin, the humanitarian doctor who urged the abolition of clumsy methods of decapita-

1 Another origin of this name is Fr. le bon.
BAPTISMAL NAMES

His name is a double diminutive, like Fr. *diablotin*, goblin. *Leggatt* is a variant of *Lidgate*, swing gate, and of *Legate*. *Lovell* is an affectionate diminutive or is for Old Fr. *louvel*, little wolf. It was also in Mid. English a dog's name, hence the force of the rime—

"The Rat (Ratcliffe), the Cat (Catlesby), and Lovell, our dog,
Rule all England under the Hog." (1484.)

It has a doublet *Lowell*. The name *Turney*, well known in Nottingham, is from the town of *Tournay*, or is aphetic for *attorney*. In the following paragraphs I generally give only one source for each name, but it should be understood that in many cases two or more are possible. The forms also vary.


¹ "The last two centuries have seen the practice made popular of using surnames for baptismal names. Thus the late Bishop of Carlisle was Harvey Goodwin, although for several centuries Harvey has been obsolete as a personal name" (Bardaley). Camden already complains that "surnames of honourable and worshipful families are given now to mean men's children for christian names." Forty years ago there was hardly a more popular name than *Percy*, while at the present day the admonition, "Be'ave ye'reself, 'Oward," is familiar to the attentive ear.
Gibbon (Gilbert), etc., with numerous variants and further derivatives. The changes that can be rung on one favourite name are bewildering, e.g., from Robert we have Rob, Dob, Hob, and Bob; the first three with a numerous progeny, while Bob, now the favourite abbreviation, came into use too late to found a large dynasty. From Richard we have Richards and Richardson, and from its three abbreviations Rick, Dick, Hick, with their variants Rich, Digge, Hig, Hitch, one of the largest families of surnames in the language. As the preceding examples show, family names are frequently derived from the mother. Other examples, which are not quite obvious, are Betts (Beatrice), Sisson (Cecilia), Moxon and Padgett (Margaret, Moggy, Madge, Padge), Parnell (Petronilla), Ibbotson (Ib, Isabella), Tilloston (Matilda). One group of surnames is derived from baptismal names given according to the season of the Church. Such are Pentecost, Pascal, whence Cornish Pascoe, Nowell, and Middlemas, a corruption of Michaelmas. With these may be grouped Loveday, a day appointed for reconciliations.

Surnames derived from place of residence often contain a preposition, e.g., Atwood, Underhill, and sometimes the article as well, e.g., Atterbury, Bythesea. In Surtees, on the Tees, we have a French preposition and an English river name. Sometimes they preserve a word otherwise obsolete. Barton, a farmyard, originally a barley-field, has given its name to about thirty places in England, and thus, directly or indirectly, to

1 It is even possible that Hood, Hudson, sometimes belong here, as Hud appears to have been used as a North Country alternative for Richard, though it is hard to see why. For proofs see Bardsley, Dict. of English Surnames, s.v. Hudd.

2 Such a corruption, though difficult to explain phonetically, is not without example in uneducated or childish speech. Cf. tidelebat or tittlebat, for stickleback. In stickler (p. 76) we have the opposite change.
many families. Bristow preserves what was once the regular pronunciation of Bristol. The famous north country name Peel means castle, as still in the Isle of Man. It is Old Fr. pel (pal), stake, and the name was originally given to a wooden hill-fort or stockade.

Many places which have given family names have themselves disappeared from the map, while others, now of great importance, are of too recent growth to have been used in this way. Many of our family names are taken from those of continental towns, especially French and Flemish. Camden says, "Neither is there any village in Normandy that gave not denomination to some family in England." Such are Bullen or Boleyn (Boulogne), Cullen (Cologne), Challis (Calais), Challen (Châlon), Chaworth (Cahors), Bridges¹ (Bruges), Druce (Dreux), Gaunt (Gand, Ghent), Lubbock (Lübeck), Luck (Luick, Liège), Mann (le Mans), Malins (Malines, Mechlin), Nugent (Nogent), Hauitre (Hauterive), and Dampier (Dampierre). To decide which is the particular Hauterive or Dampierre in question is the work of the genealogist. Dampierre (Dominus Petrus) means Saint Peter. In some cases these names have been simplified, e.g., Camden notes that Conyers, from Coigniers, lit. quince-trees, becomes Quince.

French provinces have given us Burgoyne, Champain, Gascogne & Gaskin, and Mayne, and adjectives formed from names of countries, provinces and towns survive in Alaman (Allemand), Brabason (le Brabançon, the Brabanter), Brett (le Brut or le Breton²), Pickard (le Picard²), Poidevin³ (le Poitevin), Mansell, Old Fr. Mancel (le Manceau, inhabitant of Maine or le Mans), Hanway

¹ Of course also of English origin.
² Hence also the name Britton.
³ Whence the perversion Fortwine, examples of which occur in the London Directory.
and Hannay (le Hannuyer, the Hainaulter), Loring (le Lorrain), assimilated to Fleming, Champneys (le Champenois), with which we may compare Cornwallis, from the Old French adjective cornuale, man of Cornwall. To these may be added Pollock, which occasionally means the Pole, or Polack—

"Why then the Polack never will defend it."

(Hamlet, iv. 4.)

Janaway, the Genoese, and Haynce, from the famous Hanse confederation. Morris means sometimes Moorish (see p. 49), and Norris, besides having the meaning seen in its contracted form nurse, Fr. nourrice, may stand for le Noreis, the Northener. We still have a Norroy king-at-arms, lit. north king, who holds office north of the Trent.

In some cases the territorial de remains, e.g., Dolman is sometimes the same as Dalmain, d’Allemagne, Daubney is d’Aubigné, Danvers is d’Anvers (Antwerp), Devereux is d’Évreux, a town which takes its name from the Eburovices, and Disney is d’Isigny. With these may be mentioned Dubberley, Fr. du Boulay, of the birch wood, and Davnay, from Old Fr. apprèi, a grove of alders. The last governor of the Bastille was the Marquis de Launay (l’aunat). There is a large group of such words in French, coming from Latin collectives in -etum; d’Aubray is from Lat. arbor-etu’m, and has given also the dissimilated form Darby, famous in English literature. Other examples are Chesney, Chaney, etc., the oak-grove, Pomeroy, the apple-garden.

Names of French origin are particularly subject to

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1 Old Fr. verna, whence our Verney, Varney, has the same meaning; cf. Dawneray, the name of a famous dancer. Verne, alder, is of Celtic origin.

2 Cf. Chenevix, old oak, a name introduced by the Huguenots.
corruption and folk-etymology. We have the classic example of Tess Durbeystead.¹ Camden, in his Remains concerning Britain, gives, among other curious instances, Troubleystead for Turberville. Greenfield is usually literal (cf. Whitfield, Whittaker, Greenacre, etc.), but occasionally for Grenville. Summerfield is for Somerville. The notorious Dangerfield was of Norman ancestry, from Angerville. Mullins looks a very English name, but it is from Fr. moulin, mill, as Musters is from Old Fr. moustier, monastery.¹² Phillimore is a corruption of Finnemore, Fr. fin amour.

When we come to names which indicate office or trade, we have to distinguish between those that are practically nicknames, such as King, Duke, Bishop, Caesar² (Julius Cæsar was a famous cricketer of the old school), and those that are to be taken literally. Many callings now obsolete have left traces in our surnames. The very common name Chapman reminds us that this was once the general term for a dealer (see p. 67), one who spends his time in chaffering or “chopping and changing.” The grocer, or engrosser, i.e., the man who bought wholesale; Fr. en gros,³ came too late to supplant the family name Spicer. Bailey, Old Fr. bailif (bailli), represents all sorts of officials from a Scotch magistrate to a man in possession. Bayliss seems to be formed from it like Williams from William. Chaucer, Old Fr.

¹ Other examples quoted by Mr Hardy are Priddle, from Paradelle, and Dobbyhouse—“The Dobbyhouses who now be carters were once the de Bayeux family” (Tess of the d'Urbervilles, v. 35).

² These names are supposed to have been generally conferred in consequence of characters represented in public performances and processions. In some cases they imply that the bearer was in the employment of the dignitary. We find them in other languages, e.g., Fr. Leroy, Laduc, Livlque; Ger. König, Herzog, Bischof. Livlque has given Eng. Leach, Vick, and (Trotty) Vack.

³ Gross, twelve dozen, seems to be of Germanic origin, the duodecimal hundred, Ger. Grosshundert, being Norse or Gothic. But Ger. Grosshundert means 120 only.
CHAUCIER, now replaced by CHAUSSETIER, "a hosier, or hose-maker" (Cotgrave), is probably obsolete as an English surname. Mr Homer's ancestors made helmets, Fr. hémame. JENNER is for engenour, engineer (see gin, p. 65). In FERRIER traditional spelling seems to have triumphed over popular pronunciation (farrer), but the latter appears in FARRAR. Chaucer's somonour survives as SUMNER. ARK was once a general name for a bin, hence the name ARKWRIGHT. Nottingham still has a Fletcher Gate, Lister Gate, and Pilcher Gate. It is not surprising that the trade of the fletcher, Old Fr. flechier (Fletcher), arrow-maker, should be obsolete. The Fletchers have absorbed also the fleshers, i.e. butchers, which explains why they so greatly outnumber the Bowyers (see p. 178), Boyers, etc. LISTER, earlier littester, gave way to dighester, whence the name DEXTER, well known in Nottingham, and this is now replaced by dyer. A PILCHER made pilches, or mantles; cf. the cognate Fr. name PéLissier, a maker of pelisses.1 Kiddier was once equivalent to pedlar, from kid, a basket. Sailors still speak of the bread-kid. For the name WAIT, see p. 76. The ancestor of the Poyer family made scales (poises), or was in charge of a public balance. Faulkner, falconer, Foster, Forster, forester, and Warner, warrener, go together. With the contraction of Warner we may compare Marner, mariner. Crowther means fiddler. The obsolete crowd, a fiddle, is of Celtic origin. It gave Old Fr. rote, the name of the instrument played by the medieval minstrels—

"Saxon minstrels and Welsh bards were extracting mistuned dirges from their harps, crowds, and rotes." (Ivanhoe, Ch. 41.)

KEMP is an old English word for warrior, champion.

1 Surplice, Old Fr.-surpлиц, is a compound of the same word. It was worn "over fur" in unheated medieval churches.
It represents, like Ger. kämpfen, to fight, a very early loan from Lat. campus, in the sense of battle-field.

Pinder, the man in charge of the pound or pinfold, was the name of a famous wicket-keeper of the last century. The still more famous cricketing name of Trumper means one who blows the trump. Cf. Horner and Corner, which have, however, alternative origins, a maker of horn cups and a coroner\(^1\) respectively. A dealer in shalloon (see p. 47) was a Chaloner or Chawner. Parmentier, a tailor, is as obsolete as its Old French original parmentier, a maker of parements, deckings, from parer, Lat. parare, to prepare. A member of the Parmentier family popularised the cultivation of the potato in France just before the Revolution, hence potage Parmentier, potato soup. The white tawer still plies his trade, but is hardly recognisable in Whittier. Massinger is a corruption of messenger. The Todhunter, or fox-hunter, used to get twelve pence per fox-head from the parish warden. Coltman is simple, but Runciman, the man in charge of the runcies or rouncies, is less obvious. Rouncy, a nag, is a common word in Mid. English. It comes from Old Fr. roncin (roussin), and is probably a derivative of Ger. Ross, horse. The Spanish form is rocin, "a horse or jade" (Minsheu, 1623), whence Don Quixote's charger Rocinante, "a jade formerly."

A park keeper is no longer called a Parker, nor a maker of palings and palissades a Palliser. An English sea-king has immortalised the trade of the Frobisher, or furbisher, and a famous bishop bore the appropriate name of Latimer, for Latiner. With this we may compare Lorimer, for loriner, harness-maker, a derivative, through Old French, of Lat. lorum, "a thong of leather; a collar or other thing, wherewith beastes are bounden

\(^1\) Another, and commoner, source of the name is from residence at a "corner."
or tyed; the reyne of a brydle" (Cooper). The Loriners still figure among the London City Livery Companies, as do also the Bowyers, Broderers, Fletchers (see p. 176), Horners (see p. 177), Pattenmakers, Poulters and Upholders (see p. 63). Scriven, Old Fr. escrivain (écrivain), is now usually extended to Scrivener. For Cator see p. 63. In some of the above cases the name may have descended from a female, as we have not usually a separate word for women carrying on trades generally practised by men. In French there is a feminine form for nearly every occupation, hence such names as Labouchère, the lady butcher, or the butcher’s wife.

The meaning of occupative names is not always on the surface. It would, for instance, be rash to form hasty conclusions as to the pursuits of Richard Kisser, whose name occurs in medieval London records. He probably made cuisses,¹ thigh armour, Fr. cuisse, thigh, Lat. coxa. A Barker employed bark for tanning purposes. Booker is a doublet of Butcher. A Cleaver was, in most cases, a mace-bearer, Old Fr. clavier (Clavier is a common family name in France) from Lat. clava, a club. He may, however, have sometimes been a porter, as Old Fr. clavier also means key-bearer, Lat. clavis, a key. A Croker, or Crocker, sold crocks, i.e., pottery. A Lander, or Launder, was a washer-man, Fr. lavandier. A Sloper made “slops,” i.e., loose upper garments, overalls. A Reeder or Reader thatched with reeds. A Walker walked, but within a circumscribed space. He was also called a Fuller, Fr. fouler, to trample, or a Tucker, from a verb which perhaps meant once to “tug” or “twitch.” In the following passage some manuscripts have touere for walkere—

“And his clothis ben maad schyninge and white ful moche as snow, and which maner clothis a fullere, or walkere of cloth, may not make white on erthe.” (Wyclif, Mark, ix. 2.)

¹ See quotation from Henry IV. (p. 155).
The fuller is still called Walker in Germany. Banister is a corruption of balestier, a cross-bow man; cf. banister, for baluster (p. 60).

Some of the occupative names in -ward and -herd are rather deceptive. Hayward means hedge\(^1\) guard. Howard is phonetically the Old French name Huard, but also often represents Hayward, Hereward, and the local Haworth, Howarth. For the social elevation of the sty-ward, see p. 90. Durward is door-ward. The simple Ward, replaced in its general sense by warden, warder, etc., is one of our commonest surnames. Similarly Herd, replaced by herdsman, is borne as a surname by one who, if he attains not to the first three, is usually held more honourable than the thirty. The hog-herd survives as Hoggart; Seward is sometimes for sow-herd; Calvert represents calf-herd, and Stoddart stot-herd, i.e., bullock-herd:

"'Shentlemans!' cried Andie, 'Shentlemans, ye hielant stot! If God would give ye the grace to see yersel' the way that ither see ye, ye would throw your denner up." (Catriona, Ch. 15.)

Lambert is in some cases lamb-herd, and Nutter is in all probability a perversion of neat-herd, through the North Country and Scot. nowi-herd. It is a common surname in Lancashire, and Alice Nutter was one of the Lancashire Witches.

In a sense all personal names are nicknames (see p. 114), since they all give that additional information which enables us to distinguish one person from another. The practice of giving nicknames suggested by appearance, physique, or habits is common to the European languages; but, on the whole, our nicknames compare very unfavourably with those of savage nations. We cannot imagine an English swain calling his lady-love

\(^1\) The obsolete hedy, hedge, is also a common surname, Hay, Haig, Heigh, etc.
"Laughing Water." From Roman times onward, European nicknames are in their general character obvious and prosaic, and very many of them are the reverse of complimentary. The most objectionable have either disappeared,¹ or the original meaning has become so obscured as to cease to give offence to the possessor. When a man had any choice in the matter, he naturally preferred not to perpetuate a grotesque name conferred on some ancestor. Medieval names were conferred on the individual, and did not become definitely hereditary till the Reformation. In later times names could only be changed by form of law. It is thus that Bugg became Norfolk Howard, a considerable transformation inspired by a natural instinct to "avoid the opinion of baseness," as Camden puts it. We no longer connect Gosse with goose, nor Pennefather with a miser. Cotgrave has pinse-maille (pince-maille), "a pinch peny, scrape-good, nigard, miser, peniefather." In Purcell we lose Old Fr. pourcel (pourceau), little pig, Fitch no longer means a pole-cat, nor Brock a badger. On the other hand, we generally regard Gosling as a nickname, while it is more often a variant of Jocelyn.

Names descriptive of appearance or habits often correspond pretty closely with those that are found in French. In some cases they are probably mere translations. Examples are: Merryweather (Bontemps), Drinkwater (Boileau²), Armstrong (Fortinbras), Lilywhite

¹ The following occur in the index to Bardailey's English Surnames:—Blackinmouth, Blubber, Calvesmaw, Cleanhog, Crookbone, Damned-Barebones, Drunkard, Felon, Greenhorn, Halfpenny, Hatches, Hognose, Killhog, Leper, Mad, Mansale, Milksop, Outlaw, Peckcheese, Peppercorn, Poorfish, Pudding, Ragman, Scorchbeef, Sourale, Sparrowater, Sweatinbed, Twopenny, Widehouse. Some of these are still found.

² Cf. also Ital. Bevilàcca.
Blanchefleur). Among colour names we have Black, Brown, White, and Grey, but seem to miss red. The explanation is that for this colour we have adopted the Northern form Reid (Read, Reed), or such French names as Rudge (rouge), Rouse (roux), Russell (Rousseau). With the last of these, Old Fr. rousel, cf. Brunel and Morel. Fr. blond has given Blount, Blunt, and the diminutive Blundell, which exist by the side of the fine old English name Fairfax, from Mid. Eng. fax, hair. Several other French adjectives has given us surnames, e.g., Boon (bon), Bonner (débonnaire), Grant (grand), Curtis (courtois), Power (pauvre), etc. Payn is the French adjective paien, pagan, Lat. paganus, in early use as a personal name.

But many apparent nicknames are products of folk-etymology. Coward is for cowherd, Salmon for Salomon, Bone for Boon (y.s.), Dedman is a corruption of Debenham. Playfair means play-fellow, from an old word connected with the verb to fare, to journey. Patch may sometimes have meant a jester, from his parti-coloured garments, but is more often a variant of Pash, P·sk, a baptismal name given to children christened at Easter, Old Fr. Pasque (Pâque). Easter eggs are still called pash, pace, or paste eggs in the north of England. Blood is a Welsh name, son of Lud; cf. Bevan, Bowen, etc. Coffin is Fr. Chauvin, a derivative of Lat. calvus, bald. It has a variant Caffyn, the name of a famous cricketer. Dance, for Dans, is related to Daniel as Wills is to William. In the same way Pearce comes from Peter or Pierre. The older form of the name Pearce was borne by the most famous of ploughmen, as it still is by the most famous of soapmakers. Names such as Bull, Peacock, Greenman, are sometimes from shop or tavern signs. It is noteworthy that, as a surname, we often find the old form Pocock. The Green Man, still
a common tavern sign, represented a kind of "wild man of the woods"; cf. the Ger. _sum wilden Mann._

In these remarks on surnames I have only tried to show in general terms how they come into existence, "hoping to incur no offence herein with any person, when I protest in all sincerity, that I purpose nothing less than to wrong any whosoever" (Camden). Many names are susceptible of alternative explanations, and it requires a genealogist, and generally some imagination, to decide to which particular source a given family can be traced. The two arguments sometimes drawn from armorial bearings and medieval Latin forms are worthless. Names existed before escutcheons and devices, and these are often mere puns, e.g., the Onslow family, of local origin, from Onslow in Shropshire, has adopted the excellent motto _festina lente_, "on slow." The famous name Sacheverell is latinised as _De Saltu Capella_, of the kid's leap. This agrees with the oldest form Sau-cheverell, which is probably from a French place called Sault-Chevreuil du Tronchet (Manche). The fact that Napier of Merchiston had for his device _n'a pier_ no equal, does not make it any the less true that his ancestors were, like Perkin Warbeck's parents, "really, respectable people" (see p. 57).

Dr Brewer, in his _Dictionary of Phrase and Fable_, says of his own name—

"This name, which exists in France as Bruhière and Brugière, is not derived from the Saxon _briwan_ (to brew), but the French _bruyère_ (heath), and is about tantamount to the German _Planta-genet_ (broom plant)."

A "German" Plantagenet should overawe even a Norfolk Howard. A more interesting identification, and a true one, is that of the name of the great engineer Telford, a corruption of Telfer, with Taillerfer, the "iron cleaver."
A curious feature in nomenclature is the local character of some nicknames. We have an instance of this in the Notts name *Daft*—

"A *Daft* might have played in the Notts County Eleven in 1273 as well as in 1886." (Bardsley.)

The only occurrence of the name in the Hundred Rolls for the year 1273 is in the county of Notts.

1 This word has degenerated. It is a doublet of *deft*.
CHAPTER XIII

ETYMOLOGICAL FACT AND FICTION

ROMANCE and Germanic etymology dates from the middle of the 19th century, and is associated especially with the names of two great Germans, Friedrich Diez, who published his Wörterbuch der romanischen Sprachen in 1853, and Jakob Grimm, whose Deutsches Wörterbuch dates from 1852. These two men applied in their respective fields of investigation the principles of comparative philology, and reduced to a science what had previously been an amusement for the learned or the ignorant.

Men have always been fascinated by word-lore. The Greeks and Romans played with etymology in a somewhat metaphysical fashion, a famous example of which is the derivation of lucus a non lucendo. Medieval writers delight in giving amazing information as to the origin of the words they use. Their method, which may be called learned folk-etymology, consists in attempting to resolve an unfamiliar word into elements which give a possible interpretation of its meaning. Thus Philippe de Thaün, who wrote a kind of verse encyclopedia at the beginning of the 12th century, derives the French names of the days of the week as follows: lundi, day of light (lumière), mardi, day of toil or martyrdom (martyre), mercredi, day of market (marché), jeudi, day
of joy (joie), vendredi, day of truth (vérité), samedi, day of sowing (semente). Here we perhaps have, not so much complete ignorance, as the desire to be edifying, which is characteristic of the medieval etymologists.

Playful or punning etymology also appears very early—Wace, whose Roman de Rou dates from about the middle of the 12th century, gives the correct origin of the word Norman—

"Justez (jet) ensemble north et man
Et ensemble dites northman."

But he also records the libellous theory that Normendie comes from north mendie (begg). We cannot always say whether an early etymology is serious or not, but many theories which were undoubtedly meant for jokes have been quite innocently accepted by comparatively modern writers.¹

The philologists of the Renaissance period were often very learned men, but they had no knowledge of the phonetic laws by which sound change is governed. Nor were they aware of the existence of Vulgar Latin, which is, to a much greater extent than classical Latin, the parent of the Romance languages. Sometimes a philologist had a pet theory which the facts were made to fit. Hellenists like Henri Estienne believed in the

¹ The following "etymologies" occur, in the same list with a number which are quite correct, in a 16th-century French author, Taboureot des Accords:—

Bonnet, de bon et net, pource que l'ornement de la teste doit estre tel.
Chapeau, quasi, eschappe eau; aussi anciennement ne le souloit on porter que par les champs en temps de pluye.
Chemise, quasi, sur chair mise.

Velevours, quasi, gau dourus.
Galant, quasi, gay allant.
Monstruer, quasi, meins esterier des espousees.
Orgueil, quasi, orde guete.
Noise, vient de nois (noix), qui font noise et bruit portées ensemble.
Parlement, pource qu'on y parle et ment!
Greek origin of the French language, and Périon even derived maison from the Gk. δικών (δικός, a house) by the simple method of prefixing an m. At other periods there have been Celtomaniacs, i.e., scholars who insisted on the Celtic origin of French.

The first English etymological dictionary which aims at something like completeness is the Guide into the Tongues of John Minsheu, published in 1617. This attempts to deal not only with English, but with ten other languages. It contains a great deal of learning, much valuable information for the student of Tudor literature, and some amazing etymologies. "To purloine, or get privily away," is, says Minsheu, "a metaphor from those that picke the fat of the loines." Parmaceti, a corruption of spermaceti—

"And telling me, the sovereign'st thing on earth
Was parmaceti for an inward bruise.

(t Henry IV., i. 3.)

he derives from Parma, which has given its name to parmesan cheese. On the word cockney he waxes anecdotic, always a fatal thing in an etymologist—

"Cockney, or cockny, applied only to one borne within the sound of Bow-bell, that is, within the City of London, which term came first out of this tale: That a citizen's sonne riding with his father out of London into the country, and being a novice and meereely ignorant how corne or cattell increased, asked, when he heard a horse neigh, what the horse did; his father answered, the horse doth neigh; riding farther he heard a cocke crow, and said, doth the cocke neigh too?"

Molière often makes fun of the etymologists of his time and has rather unfairly caricatured, as Vadius in

1 Old Fr. pourloigner, to remove; cf. deigner.
2 A very difficult word. Before it was applied to a Londoner it meant a milkman. It is thus used by Chaucer. Cooper renders deelias suavre, "to play the wanton, to dally, to play the cockney." In this sense it corresponds to Fr. acqaud, made into a corgn, "made tame, inward, familiar; also, grown as lazy, slothful, idle, as a beggar" (Cotgrave).
Les Femmes savantes, the great scholar Gilles Ménage, whose Dictionnaire étymologique, published in 1650, was long a standard work. Molière's mockery and the fantastic nature of some of Ménage's etymologies have combined to make him a butt for the ignorant, but it may be doubted whether any modern scholar, using the same implements, could have done better work. For Ménage the one source of the Romance languages was classical Latin, and every word had to be traced to a Latin word of suitable form or sense. Thus Fr. haricot is connected by him with Lat. fava, a bean, via the conjectural "forms" *fabarius, *fabaricus, *fabaricots, *faricots, *haricot, a method to which no problem is insoluble. He suggests that Fr. geindre, or gindre, baker's man, comes from Lat. gener, son-in-law, because the baker's man always marries the baker's daughter; but this practice, common though it may be, is not of sufficiently unfailing regularity to constitute a philological law. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the derivation of Span. alfana, a mare, from Lat. equus, a horse, which inspired a well-known epigram—

"Alfana vient d'equus, sans doute,
Mais il faut avouer aussi
Qu'en venant de là jusqu'ici
Il a bien changé sur la route."

These examples show that respect for Ménage need not prevent his work from being a source of innocent merriment. But the above epigram loses some of

1 Thought to be a Mexican word.
2 "Sache que le mot galant homme vient d'illogant; prenant le g et l'a de la dernière syllabe, cela fait ga, et puis prenant l', ajoutant un e et les deux dernières lettres, cela fait galant, et puis ajoutant homme, cela fait galant homme." (Molière, Jalousie du Barbuillé, scène 2.)
3 Old Fr. joindre, Lat. junio.
4 Of Arabic-origin.
its point for modern philologists, to whom equations that look equally fantastic, e.g. Eng. wheel and Gk. κύκλος,¹ are matters of elementary knowledge. On the other hand, a close resemblance between words of languages that are not nearly related is proof presumptive, and almost positive, that the words are quite unconnected. The resemblance between Eng. nut and Ger. Nuss is the resemblance of first cousins, but the resemblance of both to Lat. nux is accidental. Even in the case of languages that are near akin, it is not safe to jump to conclusions. The Greek cousin of Lat. deus is not θεός, God, but Ζεύς, Jupiter.

An etymology that has anything to do with a person or an anecdote is to be regarded with suspicion. For both we want contemporary evidence, and, in the case of an anecdote, we never, to the best of my knowledge, get it. In Chapter III. are a number of instances of words formed according to authentic evidence from names of persons. But the old-fashioned etymologist will not be denied his little story. Thus, in explanation of spencer (p. 40), I find in a manual of popular information of the last century,² that—

"His Lordship, when Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, being out a-hunting, had, in the act of leaping a fence, the misfortune to have one of the skirts of his coat torn off; upon which his lordship tore off the other, observing, that to have but one left was like a pig with one ear! Some inventive genius took the hint, and having made some of these half-coats, out of compliment to his Lordship, gave them the significant cognomen of Spencer!"

¹ That is, they are both descended from the same Indo-Germanic original. Voltaire was thus, superficially, right when he described etymology as a science in which the vowels do not count at all and the consonants very little.

ANECDOTIC ETYMOLOGY

This is what Pooh-Bah calls "corroborative detail intended to give artistic verisimilitude to a bald and unconvincing narrative." From the same authority we learn that—

"Hurly-burly"¹ is said to owe its origin to Hurleigh and Burleigh, two neighbouring families, that filled the country around them with contest and violence.”

and that—

"The word boh! used to frighten children, was the name of Boh, a great general, the son of Odin, whose very appellation struck immediate panic in his enemies.”²

The history of choose exemplifies the same tendency. There is no doubt that it comes from a Turkish word meaning interpreter, spelt chaus in Hakluyt and chiaus by Ben Jonson. The borrowing is parallel to that of cosen (p. 110), interpreters having a reputation little superior to that of horse-dealers. But a century and a half after the introduction of the word we come across a circumstantial story of a Turkish chiaus who swindled some London merchants of a large sum in 1609, the year before Jonson used the word in the Alchemist. "Corroborative detail" again. The story may be true, but there is not an atom of evidence for it, and Skinner, who suggests the correct derivation in his Etymologicon (1671), does not mention it. Until contemporary evidence is adduced, the story must be regarded as one of those fables which have been invented in dozens by early etymologists, and which are perpetuated in popular works of reference. It is an article of faith in Yorkshire that the coarse material

¹ Cf. Br. huruberti, which occurs in Rabelais, and in Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac.

² Tle-Bits, which honoured the Romance of Words with a notice (8th June 1912), approvingly quoted these three “etymologies” as being seriously propounded by the author. This is dramatic justice.
called mungo owes its name to the inventor of the machine used in its fabrication, who, when it stuck at a first trial, exclaimed with resolution, "It mun go."

Many stories have been composed après coup to explain the American hoodlum and the Australian larrikin, which are both older than our hooligan (see p. 12). The origin of hoodlum is quite obscure. The story believed in Australia with regard to larrikin is that an Irish policeman, giving evidence of the arrest of a rough, explained that the accused was a larrikin (larking) in the street, and this was misunderstood by a reporter. But there appears to be not the slightest foundation for this story. The word is perhaps a diminutive of the common Irish name Larry, also immortalised in the stirring ballad—

"The night before Larry was stretched."

As I write, there is a correspondence going on in the Nottingham papers as to the origin of the nickname Bendigo, borne by a local bruise and evangelist. He was one of triplets, whom, according to one account, a jocular friend of the family nicknamed Shadrach, Meschach, and Abed-Nego, the last of which was the future celebrity. This is apparently right, for his first challenge (Bell's Life, 1835) was signed "Abed-Nego of Nottingham." The rival theory is that, when he was playing in the streets and his father appeared in the offing, his companions used to warn him by crying "Bendy go!" This theory disregards the assertion of the "oldest inhabitant" that the great man was never called Bendy, and the fact, familiar to any observer of the local dialect, that, even if he had been so called, the form of warning would have been, "Look aht, Bendy, yer daddie's a-coomen."

In the Supplement to Littré there is an article on
Domino, in which he points out that investigation must start from the phrase faire domino (see p. 102). He also quotes an absurd anecdote from a local magazine, which professes to come from a "vieille chronique." Littré naturally wants to know what chronicle. In Scheler's Dictionnaire étymologique (Brussels, 1888), it is "proved," by means of the same story elaborated, "que c'est là la véritable origine du mot dont nous parlons."

In Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, s.v. sirloin, we read that "it is generally said that James I. or Charles II. knighted the loin of beef, but Henry VIII. had done so already." This sounds like a determination to get at the root of things, but does not go far enough. The word is found in the 15th century, and Fr. surlongs, from which it comes, in the 14th. It is compounded of sur, over, and longe, a derivative of Lat. lumbus, loin. The belief in the knightly origin of the sirloin was so strong that we find it playfully called the baronet (Tom Jones, iv. 10). Hence, no doubt, the name baron of beef for the double sirloin. Tram is persistently connected with a Mr Outram, who flourished about 1800. This is another case of intelligent anticipation, for the word is found in 1555. It means log or beam, and was probably first applied to a log-road laid across bad ground, what is called in America a "corduroy" road. On the other hand, the obvious and simple derivation of beef-eater, i.e. a man who is in the enviable position of being sure of his daily allowance,1 has been obscured by the invention of an

1 The following explanation, given in Miège's French Dictionary (1688), is perhaps not far wrong: "C'est ainsi qu'on appelle par dérision les Yeomen of the Guard dans la cour d'Angleterre, qui sont des gardes à peu près comme les cent Suisses en France. Et on leur donne ce nom-là, parce qu'à la cour ils ne vivent que de bœuf: par opposition à ces collèges d'Angleterre, où les écoliers ne mangent que du mouton."
imaginary Fr. *beaufetier, waiter at the side-board. Professor Skeat attributes the success of this myth to its inclusion in Mrs Markham's History of England. But the most indestructible of all these superstitions is connected with the word cabal. It comes from a Hebrew word meaning hidden mystery, and is found in the chief Romance languages. The word is of frequent occurrence in English long before the date of Charles II.'s acrostic ministry,¹ though its modern meaning has naturally been affected by this historic connection.

Even anecdotic etymologies accepted by the most cautious modern authorities do not always inspire complete confidence. Martinet is supposed to come from the name of a well-known French officer who re-organised the French infantry about 1670. But we find it used by Wycherley in 1676, about forty years before Martinet's death. Moreover this application of the name is unknown in French, which has, however, a word martinet meaning a kind of cat-o'-nine-tails. In English martinet means the leech-line of a sail, hence, possibly, rope's end, and Wycherley applies the term to a brutal sea-captain. The most renowned of carriers is probably Hobson, of Cambridge. He was sung by Milton, and bequeathed to the town Hobson's conduit which cleanses the Cambridge gutters. To him is also ascribed the phrase Hobson's choice, from his custom of refusing to let out his horses except in strict rotation. But we find a merchant venturer, living in Japan, using "Hodgson's choice" fourteen years before the

¹ An acrostic of this kind would have no point if it resulted in a meaningless word. In the same way the Old Fr. Fauxel, whence our curry favour (see p. 192), has a medieval explanation of the acrostic kind. It is supposed to be formed from the initial letters of the vices Flatterie, Avarice, Villem, Variete, Bosie, Echecet.
carrier left this world and became a legendary figure—

"We are put to Hodgson's chaise to take such previlegesse as they will geve us, or else goe without." (Correspondence of Richard Cocks, Oct. 1617.)

The most obvious etymology needs to be proved up to the hilt, and the process is rich in surprises. Cambridge appears to be the bridge over the Cam. But the river's older name, which it preserves above the town, is the Granta, and Bede calls the town itself Grantacester. Camden, in his Britannia (trad. Holland, 1637), notes that the county was called "in the English Saxon" Grentbrigseyre, and comments on the double name of the river. Nor can he "easily beleeve that Grant was turned into Cam; for this might seeume a deflexion some what too hardly streined, wherein all the letters but one are quite swallowed up." Grantabrigge became, by dissimulation (see p. 57), Gantabrigge, Cantabrigge (cf. Cantab), Cantbrigge, and, by assimilation (see p. 56), Cambridge, the river being rechristened from the name of the town.

A beggar is not etymologically one who beg, or a cadger one who cadges. In each case the verb is evolved from the noun. About the year 1200 Lambert le Bègue, the Stammerer, is said to have founded a religious order in Belgium. The monks were called after him in medieval Latin beghardi and the nuns beghina. The Old Fr. begard passed into Anglo-French with the meaning of mendicant and gave our beggar. From biguine we get biggin, a sort of cap—

"Sleep with it (the crown) now!  
Yet not so sound, and half so deeply sweet,  
As he, whose brow with homely biggin bound,  
`Snores out the watch of night.'"

(2 Henry IV., iv. 4)

Cadger, or rather its Scottish form cadgear, a pedlar, occurs
about one hundred and fifty years earlier than the verb to cadge. We find, noted as foreign words, in 16th-century Dutch, the words cagie, a basket carried on the back, and cagiaerd, one who carries such a basket. These must be of French origin, and come, like the obsolete Eng. cadge, a panier, from cage, for the history of which see p. 109. Cadger is used in Scottish of an itinerant fish merchant with his goods carried in paniers by a pony—

"Or die a cadger pownie's death,
   At some dyke-back."

(Burns, Epistle to J. Lapraik.)

Tobacco does not take its name from the island of Tobago, but from the native name of the tube through which the Caribs smoked it.

The traditional derivation of vaunt is from Fr. vanter, and this from a late Lat. venditare, to talk emptily, used by St Augustine. This looks very simple, but the real history of these words is most complicated. In Mid. English we regularly find avaut, which comes from Old Fr. avanter, to put forward, from avant, before. This gets mixed up during the Tudor period with another vaunt from Fr. vanter, to extol, the derivation of which can only be settled when its earliest form is ascertained. At present we find venter as early as vanter, and this would represent Lat. venditare (frequentative of vendere, to sell), to push one's goods, "to do anything before men to set forth himselfe and have a pryse; to vaunt;" to crake; to brag" (Cooper).  

1 There is also a word cadge, explained in the glossary to a book on falconry (1615) as a kind of frame on which an itinerant vendor of hawks carried his birds. But it is unrecorded in literature and labours under the suspicion of being a ghost-word. Its first occurrence outside the dictionaries, is, I believe, in Mr Maurice Hewlett's Song of Renny—"the nominal service of a pair of geraflons yearly, in golden hoods, upon a golden cadge" (Ch. 1).
ETYMOLOGICAL TESTS

A sound etymology must fulfil three conditions. It must not violate the recognised laws of sound change. The development of meaning must be clearly traced. This must start from the earliest or fundamental sense of the word. It goes without saying that in modern corruptions we are sometimes faced by cases which it would be difficult to explain phonetically (see p. 136). There are, in fact, besides the general phonetic and semantic laws, a number of obscure and accidental influences at work which are not yet codified. As we have seen (p. 188), complete apparent dissimilarity of sound and sense need not prevent two words from being originally one; but we have to trace them both back until dissimilarity becomes first similarity and then identity.

The word *peruse* meant originally to wear out, Old Fr. *par-user*. In the 16th century it means to sort or sift, especially herbs, and hence to scrutinise a document, etc. But between the earliest meaning and that of sifting there is a gap which no ingenuity can bridge, and, until this is done, we are not justified in regarding the modern *peruse* as identical with the earlier.

The maxim of Jakob Grimm, “von den Wörtern zu den Sachen,” is too often neglected. In dealing with

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1 This seems to have been realised by the author of the *Etymological Compendium* (see p. 188, n. 2), who tells us that the “term *swallow* is derived from the French *hirondelle*, signifying indiscriminately voracious, literally a marshy place, that absorbs or *swallows* what comes within its vortex.”

2 It is much more likely that it originated as a misunderstanding of *pervise*, to survey, look through, earlier printed *perwise*. We have a similar misunderstanding in the name *Alured*, for *Ailred*, i.e. *Alfred*. The influence of spelling upon sound is, especially in the case of words which are more often read than heard, greater than is generally realised. Most English people pronounce a *x* in names like *Daisiel*, *Mackenzie*, *Menasie*, etc., whereas this *x* is really a modern printer’s substitution for an old symbol which had nearly the sound of *y* (*Dahell*, etc.).
the etymology of a word which is the name of an object or of an action, we must first find out exactly what the original object looked like or how the original action was performed. The etymologist must either be an antiquary or must know where to go for sound antiquarian information. I will illustrate this by three words denoting objects used by medieval or Elizabethan fighting men.

A fencing foil is sometimes vaguely referred to the verb foil, to baffle, with which it has no connection. The Fr. feuille, leaf, is also invoked, and compared with Fr. fleuret, a foil, the idea being that the name was given to the "button" at the point. Now the earliest foils and fleurets were not buttoned; first, because they were pointless, and secondly, because the point was not used in early fencing. It was not until gunpowder began to bring about the disuse of heavy armour that anybody ever dreamt of thrusting. The earliest fencing was hacking with sword and buckler, and the early foil was a rough sword-blade quite unlike the implement we now use. Fleuret meant in Old French a sword-blade not yet polished and hilted, and we find it used, as we do Eng. foil, of an apology for a sword carried by a gallant very much down at heel. As late as Cotgrave we find floret, "a foile; a sword with the edge refabed." Therefore foil is the same as Fr. feuille, which in Old French meant sword-blade, and is still used for the blade of a saw; but the name has nothing to do with what did not adorn the tip. It is natural that Fr. feuille should be applied, like Eng. leaf, blade, to anything flat (cf. Ger. Blatt, leaf), and we find in 16th-century Dutch the borrowed word folie, used in the three senses of leaf, metal plate, broadsword, which is conclusive.

And therefore identical with the foil of tinfoil, counterfoil, etc.
We find frequent allusions in the 16th and 17th centuries to a weapon called a petronel, a flint-lock firearm intermediate in size between an arquebus and a pistol. It occurs several times in Scott—

"'Twas then I fired my petronel,
And Mortham, steed and rider fell."  

(Rokeby, i. 19.)

On the strength of a French form, poitrinal, it has been connected with Fr. poitrine, chest, and various explanations are given. The earliest is that of the famous Huguenot surgeon Ambroise Paré, who speaks of the "mousquets poitrinals, que l'on ne couche en joue, à cause de leur calibre gros et court, mais qui se tirent de la poitrine." I cannot help thinking that, if the learned author had attempted this method of discharging an early firearm, his anatomical experience, wide as it was, would have been considerably enlarged. Minsheu (1617) describes a petronell as "a horseman's pence first used in the Pyrenean mountaines, which hanged them alwayes at their breast, readie to shoote, as they doe now at the horse's breast." This information is derived from Claude Fauchet, whose interesting Antiquités françaises et gauloises were published in 1579. Phillips, in his New World of Words (1678) tells us that this "kind of harquebus, or horseman's piece, is so called, because it is to aim at a horse's brest, as it were poictronel." When we turn from fiction to fact, we find that the oldest French name was petrinal, explained by Cotgrave as "a petronell, or horse-man's piece." It was occasionally corrupted, perhaps owing to the way in which the weapon was slung, into poitrinal. This corruption would be facilitated by the 16th-century pronunciation of oi (poitrine). The French word is borrowed either from Ital. petronello, petronello, "a petronell" (Florio), or from Span. pedrerenal, "a
petronall, a horse-man’s picee, ita dict. quod *silice petra* incenditur” (Minsheu, Spanish Dictionary, 1623). Thus Minsheu knew the origin of the word, though he had put the fiction in his earlier work. We find other forms in Italian and Spanish, but they all go back to Ital. pietra, petra, or Span. piedra, pedra, stone, flint. The usual Spanish word for flint is pedernal. Our word, as its form shows, came direct from Italian. The new weapon was named from its chief feature; cf. Ger. Flinte, “a light gun, a hand-gun, pop-gun, arquebuss, fire-arm, fusil or fusee” (Ludwig). The substitution of the flint-lock for the old match-lock brought about a re-naming of European fire-arms, and, as this substitution was first effected in the cavalry, petronel acquired the special meaning of horse-pistol. It is curious that, while we find practically all the French and Italian fire-arm names in 17th-century German, a natural result of the Thirty Years’ War, petronel does not appear to be recorded. The reason is probably that the Germans had their own name, viz., Schnapphahn, snap-cock, the English form of which, snaphaunce, seems also to have prevailed over petronel. Cotgrave has arquebuse à fusil, “a snaphaunce,” and explains fusil as “a fire-stick for a tinder-box.” This is medieval Lat. focile, from focus, fire, etc.

The most general name for a helmet up to about 1450 was basnet, or basinet. This, as its name implies (see p. 156), was a basin-shaped steel cap worn by fighting men of all ranks. The knights and nobles wore it

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1 It is a diminutive of some word which appears to be unrecorded (cf. Fr. pistole for the obsolete pistol). Charles Reade, whose archaeology is very sound, makes Denys of Burgundy say, “Petrona nor arquebuss shall ever put down Sir Arbalest” (Cloister and Hearth, Ch. 24); but I can find no other authority for the word.

2 This word occurs in Robinson Crusoe.
under their great ornamental helms. The basnet itself was perfectly plain. About the end of the 16th century the usual English helmets were the burgonet and morion. These were often very decorative, as may be seen by a visit to any collection of old armour. Spenser speaks of a "guilt engraven morion" (Faerie Queene, vii. 7). Between the basnet and these reigned the sallet or salade, on which Jack Cade puns execrably—

"Wherefore, on a brick wall have I climbed into this garden, to see if I can eat grass, or pick a sallet another while, which is not amiss to cool a man's stomach this hot weather. And I think this word sallet was born to do me good, for many a time, but for a sallet, my brain-pan had been cleft with a brown-bill."

(2 Henry VI., iv. 10.)

It comes, through Fr. salade, from Ital. celata, "a scull, a helmet, a morion, a sallat, a headpiece" (Florio). The etymologists of the 17th century, familiar with the appearance of "guilt engraven morions," connected it with Lat. celare, to engrave, and this derivation has been repeated ever since without examination. Now in the Tower of London Armoury is a large collection of sallets, and these, with the exception of one or two late German specimens from the ornate period, are plain steel caps of the simplest form and design. The sallet was, in fact, the basnet slightly modified, worn by the rank and file of 15th-century armies, and probably,

1 Over the tomb of the Black Prince in Canterbury Cathedral hangs his cumbersome tilting helmet. But the magnificent recumbent bronze effigy below represents him in his fighting kit, basnet on head.

2 Burgonet, Fr. bourguignotte, is supposed to mean Burgundian helmet. The origin of morion is unknown, but its use by Scott in Ivanhoe—"I have twice or thrice noticed the glance of a morion from amongst the green leaves." (Ch. 40)—is an anachronism by four centuries. Both words are used vaguely as general names for helmet.
Dictionary having laid this particular ghost. Abacoit seems to be a misprint or misunderstanding for a bicocket, a kind of horned head-dress. It corresponds to an Old Fr. bicoquet and Span. bicoquete, cap, the derivation of which is uncertain. Of somewhat later date is brooch, "a painting all in one colour," which likewise occurs in all dictionaries of the 18th and 19th centuries. This is due to Miège (French Dict. 1688) misunderstanding Cotgrave. There is a Fr. camaïeu, a derivative of cameo, which has two meanings, viz.: a cameo brooch, and a monochrome painting with a cameo effect. Miège appears to have taken the second meaning to be explanatory of the first, hence his entry—brooch, "camayeu, ouvrage de peinture qui n'est que d'une couleurs." In Manwayring's Seaman's Dictionary (1644), the old word carvel, applied to a special build of ship, is misprinted carnell, and this we find persisting, not only in the compilations of such writers as Bailey, Ash, etc., but even in technical dictionaries of the 18th century "by officers who serv'd several years at sea and land.

The Anglo-Saxon name for the kestrel (see p. 100) was stangella, stone-yeller (cf. nightingale), which appears later as stonegall and staniel. In the 16th century we find the curious spelling steingall, e.g., Cooper explains tinnunculus as "a kistrel, or a kastrell; a steyngall." In Cotgrave we find it printed steeringall, a form which recurs in several later dictionaries of the 17th century. Hence, somewhere between Cooper and Cotgrave, an ornithologist or lexicographer must have misprinted steeringall for steingall by the common mistake of ft for st, and the ghost-word persists into the 18th century.

The difficulty of the etymologist's task is exemplified by the complete mystery which often enshrouds a word.

1 See letter by Dr. Murray, afterwards Sir James Murray, in the "Athenæum", Feb. 4, 1884.
of comparatively recent appearance. A well-known example is the word *Huguenot*, for which fifteen different etymologies have been proposed. We first find it used in 1550, and by 1572 the French word-hunter Tabourot, generally known as des Accords, has quite a number of theories on the subject. He is worth quoting in full—

“De nostre temps ce mot de *Huguenots*, ou *Hucnots* s'est ainsi intronisé: quelque chose qu'ayent escrit quelques-uns, que ce mot vient *Gnostis hareticis qui luminibus extinctis sacra faciebant*, selon Crinit: ou bien du Roy Hugues Capet, ou de la porte de Hugon à Tours par laquelle ils sortoient pour aller à leur presche. Lors que les pretendus Reformez imploreroient l'aide des voix des Allemans, aussi bien que de leurs armées: les Protestans estans venus parler en leur favere, devant Monsieur le Chancelier, en grande assemblee, le premier mot que profera celuy qui portoit le propos, fut, *Huc nos venimus*: Et apres estant pressé d’un reuthme (*rhume*, cold) il ne peut passer outre; tellement que le second dit le mesme, *Huc nos venimus*. Et les courtisans presents qui n'entendoient pas telle prolation; car selon la nostre ils prononcent *Huc nos venimus*, estimerent que ce fussent quelques gens ainsi nommez: et depuis surnommerent ceux de la Religion pretendu reformee, *Hucnot*: en apres changeant C en G, *Hugnots*, et avec le temps on a allongé ce mot, et dit *Huguenots*. Et voylà la vraye source de tout, s'il n'y en a autre meilleure.”

The only serious etymology is Ger. *Eidgenoss*, oath companion, which agrees pretty well with the earliest recorded Swiss-French form, *eiguenot*, in Bonivard’s *Chronique de Genève*.

The engineering term *culvert* first appears about 1800, and there is not the slightest clue to its origin. The victorious march of the ugly word *swank* has been one of the linguistic phenomena of recent years. There is a dialect word *swank*, to strut, which may be related.

1 The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* does not imitate the wise reticence of Tabourot's saving clause, but pronounces authoritatively for the *porte de Hugon* fable.
to the common Scottish word *swankie*, a strapping youth—

"I am told, young *swankie*, that you are roaming the world to seek your fortune." (Monastery, Ch. 24.)

But, in spite of the many conjectures, plausible or otherwise, which have been made, neither the etymology of *swank* nor its sudden inroad into the modern language are at present explained. The word *ogre*, first used by Perrault in his *Contes de Fées* (1697), has occasioned much grave and learned speculation. Perhaps the philologists of the future may theorise as sapiently as to the origin of *jabberwock* and *bandersnatch*. 