

THE BOOK OF MANY NAMES

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The book of many names by Various

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VARIOUS

**THE BOOK OF
MANY NAMES**

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MANY NAMES.

"There is an arbitrary name; whereunto the idea attacheth."—
TOPPER.

LONDON:
JAMES BLACKWOOD, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1858.

PREFATORY PARAGRAPHS,

INDISPENSABLE TO RENDER "THE BOOK OF MANY NAMES"
INTELLIGIBLE.

I.

How "The Book of Many Names" originated.

FEW have spent some weeks at a sea-place, without experiencing the tedium of rainy weather in the dull occupationless quarters of a lodging-house; and, doubtless, many have welcomed eagerly the slight amusement afforded by the weekly "Visitors' List", in which the quaintness and frequent droll coalition of names often induce a suspicion as to authenticity; especially as the Reader's own name, whether long or short, common or uncommon, simple or complicated, has, in all probability, undergone various and unjustifiable changes in the bills of the different tradespeople of the locality.

When in the autumn of a by gone year, the visiting annals of "the Scarborough Gazette" tempted the Author to collect such as could be disposed of in some composition resembling a

story, it was hardly doubted that at least a proportion of those thus employed would prove to be either misprinted or assumed, and it was, consequently, to the great astonishment of the Writer, that the names made use of in the "Scarborough Picnic" (Section VI) were found, with scarcely an exception, by later researches, in law and other lists of a character which neither admitted the conjecture of an "alias" nor permitted the imputation of "typographical errata."

The "Picnic" was written at Scarborough, and its want of fullness compared with the materials contained in the other sections is to be accounted for by two reasons: first, that the compilation was hampered by the non-admission of any name from memory; and, secondly, that the idea of "The Book of Many Names" had then scarcely suggested itself to the Author, and none of the present collections existed.

II.

Of the Rules adhered to throughout "The Book of Many Names"

1. Never to admit any name which there was valid reason to believe assumed or misprinted.

Note: In following this rule so many names were at first set aside, and afterwards found to be correct, that the Writer feels it necessary to declare positively that *in no case* has this rule been wittingly infringed.

2. To alter no name: thus, if a name appears as PINCH in one section, and that PINCHES should be found in another, it is to be understood that the names belong to different individuals.

3. Not to make use of Titles or of foreign names, unless the former were also borne by commoners, and that the latter could fairly be considered as naturalized.

Note: This rule was held to include in the term "foreign" any name so completely of a Scotch or Irish character as to be recognized as such. For instance, SHEE was deemed eligible, but, O'SHEA inadmissible: ADAM is prominent in "The Biography of Names" but MACADAM excluded.

4. Christian Names to be ineligible: this rule does not refer to the employment of such as are found to be also surnames.

5. In the use made of the Collection of Names formed with scrupulous attention to the preceding rules: when a necessity occurs for joining or marking connection between two names, to effect an arbitrary meaning, such names are to be joined by single hyphens; this form of union proving that both names are not borne by the same individual: where the latter is the case, such connection is to be shown by an asterisk.

III.

How the Names were collected.

The names were chiefly gathered from the advertising columns of "The Times" Newspaper. All Newspapers, Reports of Charities, and other available sources of obtaining authentic names were likewise searched for additions; the lists being at first merely written in succession, and afterwards re-copied under various headings for the compilation of the proposed sections.

IV.

Of Section 1. "The Grammar of Names."

In this a good compendium of English Grammar aided the arrangement, and the examples were so selected as to be as nearly similar to those given in the real Grammar as could be produced, (or expected,) by names.

V.

Of Section II. "The Etymology of Names,"

Derivative Dictionaries were the basis of this section. Such "roots" as could be matched by similar sounding names, were copied, with the addition of their meanings. The name chosen as the example, will, in many cases, be found to consist of two syllables, of which the first resembles its imaginary derivation, and the latter portion

of the name forms a word completing the sense thus arbitrarily imposed. For instance in "Latin prefixes," (division 8) "con" is explained to mean "together." Consequently the given example CONRAN bears the signification of "ran together."

VI.

Of Section III. "The Vocabulary of Names.

The choice of the different headings in this section were taken from a vocabulary; it is almost needless to remark that the greater number of the names it includes necessarily recur frequently in other divisions of the work.

VII.

Of Section IV. "The Biography of Names.

The object has been to place before the reader a few of the requisite materials for complete biography. The expression "Sir" names is believed to have been first explained by LOWER in his book on "English Surnames." It is perhaps due to the present Author, to state that the work in question bears no resemblance to "the Book of Many Names," and that no writings on the subject have been consulted. It will be understood that the so-called "Christian Names," (division 1) are Surnames.

VIII.

Of Section V. "The Utility of Names."

The names expressive of ranks, offices, and callings, having been selected from the general lists, those characteristic of the individual position and occupation, were placed under each personage described.

IX.

Of Section VI. "The application of Names."

In the first of these "Prefatory Paragraphs," an account has been already given of the supposititious narrative which commences this section. Others on a more extended scale might have been readily appended; and, with the additional help afforded by the large collections from which "The Book of Many Names" has been compiled, the number of connecting words might be very few, but this specimen is considered to suffice as an example of the art of interweaving names in composition. The previous sections containing numerous classified arrangements which would greatly facilitate and simplify such an undertaking on the part of any reader; it appeared to the Author that, "The Book of Many Names" would be judiciously terminated by a dictionary of the principal verbs, and such parts of their conjugation as are found in names.

To this "Verbal Dictionary," has been appended