

**LOCAL NOMENCLATURE: A
LECTURE ON THE NAMES OF
PLACES, CHIEFLY IN THE WEST OF
ENGLAND, ETYMOLOGICALLY
AND HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649507894

Local Nomenclature: A Lecture on the Names of Places, Chiefly in the West of England,
Etymologically and Historically Considered by George P. R. Pulman

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE P. R. PULMAN

**LOCAL NOMENCLATURE: A
LECTURE ON THE NAMES OF
PLACES, CHIEFLY IN THE WEST OF
ENGLAND, ETYMOLOGICALLY
AND HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED**

LOCAL NOMENCLATURE.

A LECTURE
ON
THE NAMES OF PLACES,
CHIEFLY
IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND,
ETYMOLOGICALLY AND HISTORICALLY
CONSIDERED.

By GEORGE P. R. PULMAN,

AUTHOR OF 'RUSTIC SKETCHES,' 'THE BOOK OF THE AKE,' 'THE
FADE MECUM OF FLY-FISHING FOR TROUT,' ETC.

'The names are excellent. An atmosphere of legendary melody
spreads over the land. Older than all epics and histories, which
clothe a nation, this undershirt sits close to the body. What history,
too, and what stores of primitive and savage observation it infolds!' *Emerson's 'English Traits.'*

LONDON:

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, AND ROBERTS.

1867.

G
106
P8
1857
40696

ORFEDERER:
PRINTED BY G. FULMAN, MARKET-PLACE.

P R E F A C E .

THE following pages are an amplification of the lecture which I had the honor of delivering last year at Crewkerne, Chard, and Yeovil, from the neighbourhoods of which places the majority of examples for illustration are selected; and I appear in print in compliance with a request which has been made to me in several quarters.

I feel that it would be unreasonable to claim indulgence on the ground of my imperfect qualifications, for it might naturally be said, in objection to such a claim, that the free selection of a subject is tantamount to the profession of an

author's acquaintance with that subject, and that the fate of Icarus must be submitted to by him who attempts to fly with waxen wings.

Fortunately, however, a lecture is of less pretension than a formal treatise, and its preparation for a mixed audience involves the choice of a popular style, and may be admitted as some apology for an inadequate treatment.

GEORGE P. R. PULMAN.

Creukerne, January 1st, 1857.

LOCAL NOMENCLATURE,

ETC., ETC.

SECTION I.

INTRODUCTORY.

IN the names of many of the towns, and villages, and natural objects around us, there is a touching and an indubitable link between the Present and the far distant Past. Those names are, in many cases, almost the only relics of races long since annihilated or absorbed—speaking, as they do, with an impressive voice, of a period more remote than authentic history, and suggesting to the reflecting mind a fund of thought which almost supplies the place of history. Some of them enable such a mind to picture to itself a state of society in this country which has now, perhaps, no nearer representative than that which is found in

the American wilderness. Some mark the places of the savage battle field, where

'Foe met foe in one red burial blent.'

And others point to the spot on which the solemn mysteries of an awful creed were celebrated, and to the very stone once red with the blood of human sacrifices. The old names, indeed, reveal, as it were, the foot-prints of those who, centuries ago, lived, and moved, and played their various parts upon the now altered scenes of our own familiar haunts;—upon the spot where stood the wither-hut of the Celt, in which he first saw the light, and around the rude hearth of which, enfolded in a mother's arms, he felt the first fond pressure of a mother's kiss;—upon the spots which were the upland wild, the grove in the gentle dell, the green mead by the rippling stream, where he rudely told his love tale;—upon what were then the dark forest paths along which he chased the deer, and the deep recesses amid which he nightly heard the wolf-howl!

Many are the names suggestive of such things as these; and with their help how much has been revealed of the little with which we are acquainted of the people who lived and moved

'When yet our England was a wolfish den!'

Ages, of which the pen of history takes no note, had passed away while the aboriginal tribes were in possession of this fair land; and three hundred years before the birth of Christ, the southern and south-eastern parts of the island were invaded and possessed by the Belgic colonists.¹ At length the Romans, the great masters of the old civilized world, attracted by the commercial enterprises of the Phoenicians and the Carthaginians, and incited by their own inherent love of conquest, sent their invincible legions to the lonely shores of 'the islands of the sea,' of which, after a series of attempts familiar to the student of history, they became the undisputed masters.

For nearly four hundred years the Romans ruled the destinies of Britain, and it is easy to imagine the scenes of carnage and of rapine to which the

¹ The inhabitants of the interior of Britain, according to the traditional information gained by Caesar, were the original inhabitants of the island, while the south-eastern coast was inhabited by Belgic colonists, who, as he tells us, had given to the different petty states (*civitates*) of Britain the names of those from which they came. This statement is corroborated by the list of British tribes given by subsequent writers, in which the *Hedui* of Somersetshire, the *Morini* of Dorset, the *Senones* of Hampshire, the *Rhemi* (another name of the *Bibroci*) of Berkshire and Surrey, the *Attrebates*, stretching from Berkshire into Hampshire, the *Cimbri* of the borders of Devon, the *Parisii* on the eastern coast of the island, had all their representatives in Gaul.—Wright's '*The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon.*' Page 16.