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DEFINITIONS OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

BY KONRAD GANZENMÜLLER, PH.D.

THE teacher of Geography finds it impossible to avoid using a great number of foreign names; and these the student must, of course, be expected to remember. However discouraging at first, the study will eventually become extremely attractive if the scholar be made to see that the names are not mere sounds, but, on the contrary, significant forms capable of interpretation.

It is true that this is not the case with all names. There are some which cannot be explained; and the method of instruction will occasionally not admit of an etymological explanation of words of remote and obscure origin. Passing over these, there remain a considerable number of geographical names that may be made clear and intelligible through the languages to which they belong, if only the proper method be employed. Merely to give the name and the meaning of it—whether this be done by the teacher himself or set down in a book—would be to impose an additional burden on the scholar's memory. If rightly used, on the other hand, the explanations should assist the memory, lighten the task of the teacher, and give a living interest to the lesson.

Even the most repellent names of the Chinese cities, rivers, etc., may be made intelligible in this manner. With the map of this, the most densely-populated empire on the globe before him, the teacher may remind his pupils that, in English, monosyllabic words are frequently put together without any change, *e.g.* north-east, south-east, Great Salt Lake, New Zealand, etc. He may then add that the Chinese have in their singular language none but monosyllabic words, which can only be joined directly to others. By way of illustration, he may write on the black-board, in a column, the words: *pe*=north, *tong*=east, *nan*=south, *si*=west; and in a second column: *king*=capital, or king's household; *hai*=sea. If, in a third column, be written the names *Pe-king* and *Nan-king*, the scholars will see at a glance that by the former the Chinese understand "the northern capital," and by the latter "the southern capital." These two capital cities of China, it might be shown, have their parallel in the Russian cities of St. Petersburg, the residence of the Tsar, and Moscow, the place of his coronation. (During the last two centuries, it is true, the Emperors of China have always resided in Peking). By this simple process even a pupil of dull wit will soon cease to be bewildered by these strange names: he will remember them with comparative ease, and will recognise their true geographical position.

If, now, the teacher point on the map to the sea that bounds China on the east, he will find that the scholar will understand at once why it is called *Tong-hai*; and that *Nan-hai* must be the name of that sea which washes the southern shores of China. In this latter sea, in the "south of the sea," is the island *Hai-nan*.

These examples having been sufficiently explained, and the words set down on the black-board having been copied out by the scholar, the teacher may then write under *si* the words: *chu*=pearl, *kin*=gold, *sha*=

sand; *pei*=white, *hōng*=yellow, *ta*=great; and below *hai*: *kīng*=stream, *ho*=river.

Attention may then be directed to the confluence of the three rivers near the city of Canton, flowing from points of the compass after which they are named. The *Si-kiang*, or "the western stream," has a place in the majority of school-books; and the pupil, looking for a *Pe-kiang*, or "northern stream," and a *Tong-kiang*, or "eastern stream," is able at once to form in his mind, and to retain a far more lively idea of, a river-system and the importance of its commerce than that which any other method of teaching could convey.

The three rivers just named unite and form the *Chu-kiang*, or "the pearl-stream." The *Yang-tse-kiang*, or "the stream of" (the ancient province of) "Yang," which is very broad and deep in its lower course, and navigable for large vessels a great distance from its mouth, is also named *Ta-kiang*, or "the great stream"; and, farther up, *Kin-sha-kiang*, or "the stream with golden sand." The *Hoang-ho*, or "yellow river," cuts a deep bed through the yellow soil, from which it derives its colour. Yellow Sea=*Hoang-hai*; *Pei-ho* (on which Pe-king is situated)=the white river.

With younger pupils the explanation of names might stop at this point for the day, and the rest of the lesson might be devoted to a general account of China and its remarkable people. In the case of elder scholars, the teacher might proceed to speak of the coast, the mountains, the rivers, etc. For these pupils he would write below *ta*: *tān* or *tēn*=heaven, *shang*=upper (upward), *chung*=the middle, *ngan*=rest; and below *ho*: *shan*=mountains, *mo*=desert, *tsin*=ford, *chin*=market-place; and in a third column: *Tian-shan*=mountains of heaven, *Tien-tsin*=ford of heaven.

Here the teacher would point out that the word *hūi* signifies "below," and that the Chinese call their empire by the name *Tien-hia*, "below heaven," meaning by this the earth; and he would thus correct the mistaken expression of the "Celestial Empire."

Then would follow: *Sha-mo*=sand desert (the Chinese name for the Gobi Desert); *Shang-hai*=upper sea (situated inland from the sea), *Chung-king*=the middle capital; *Tong-king*=(country of) the eastern capital; *Si-ngan*=(place of) rest, or peace in the west; *mai*=to buy, *mai-mai*=to buy and to sell, to trade; and *Mai-mai-chin*, usually *Mai-ma-chin*=a place of trade. *Fu* designates, further, a city of the first rank, or a city with a prefecture; and *cheu* (meaning a district) one of the second rank.

Thus, it is easy to see that the pupil's mind must be roused, and in the highest degree interested in a subject presented in a manner at once so concise and so direct. What before were meaningless sounds have now become instinct with life through the explanations given; and it cannot be doubted that, whatever be read or studied concerning China will be firmly retained by the mind.

Applying the same principle to the names of Mongolia, opportunity will be found for instituting striking comparisons. *Dagh* (Turkish)=mountains, *muren* (Mongol)=river, *tengri*=heaven, *kara*=black. The

Mongol-Turkish *Tengri-dagh*, it will be seen, has the same meaning as the Chinese *Tian-shan*, "mountains of heaven." *Kara-Muren* (now Amur) is "the black river." If the pupil be now reminded that, in the Balkan Peninsula, there are to be found the *Kara-dagh*, or "the black mountains," and the *Kara-su*, or "the black river," he cannot fail to note and to remember the wide range of the Mongolian race. And when he hears, in the lesson on Japan, that *to* means "east," and *sai* "west," and *kio* "capital"; so that *To-kio*=eastern capital, and *Sai-kio* (*Kiyoto* or *Meako*)=western capital, he must be struck with the likeness of these expressions to the Chinese *tong*, and *si*, and *king*.

Referring to the East Indies, it would be advisable to consider the Archipelago, Hindustan, and Further India together, and to divide the names in accordance with their respective languages. Many of the names belong to Sanskrit, or to its derivative, Hindustani.

It will be best to study at first the appellations of the islands and mountains and rivers, and afterwards to take up the cities. *Diva*, or *dvipa*, it is found, means "island"; *Malala*, the coast of Malabar; *singh*, "a lion"; *java* means "barley," "grain," and *lak*, or *laksha*, "one hundred thousand." Of the old name *Java-diva*, "grain island," the first part only has survived. It is the same as *Singhala dvipa*, "island of the lions," from which *dvipa* has been dropped, while the *Singhala* has become *Ceylon*, though the inhabitants are still known as *Singalese* (Cingalese). The *Laccadive Islands* are so called because of their immense number, or *Laksha dvipas*=hundred thousand islands; and the *Maldives* take their name from the compound word *Mala-dvipa*, "garland of isles."

Giri=mountain, mountains, *sindhu*=stream, *ganga*=river, stream, *nadi*=river; *Brahma* (*n*)=name of God; *Sankar* is a surname of the god Siva, *devi*=goddess; the goddess Parvati is also called *Nanda*=happiness, *Kali*=the goddess of destiny, *raja*=king, and *rashttra*=kingdom; *putra*=son, *alaya*=abode, *hima*=snow, *dhavala*=white, *gauri*=white, or fair, *nila*=blue, *maha* (*t*)=great.

Putting these together, it is easily seen that "the abode of snow" must be *Himdlaya*, and the Blue Mountains *Nilagiri* (*Nilgiri*), "the white or fair (god) Siva" will be *Gaurisankar*, "the goddess Nanda" *Nandadevi*, the White Mountain *Dhavalagiri*, and "the son of Brahma" *Brahmaputra*. (*Ganga*), *Ganges*=stream, and *Kaliganga*=river of Kali. We at once recognise in *Mahanadi* "the great river," in the analogous combination, *Maharaja* "the great king," and in *Maharashtra* "the great kingdom." The *Marathas* are, therefore, "the inhabitants of the great kingdom." The name of India itself is taken from the word *Sindhu*, after the Persian pronunciation *Hind*, hence the Greek *Ἰνδός*, the Latin *Indus*=a stream.

Pura means a city, *nagar*=city, *patna*=city, town, *kata*=ground, holy place; *Sri*=the goddess of good fortune, *naga*=serpent. In the history of Alexander the Great mention is made of *Pura*, a city of Gedrosia, and *Singapore* is, of course, *Singhapura*=the lion's city, the island taking the same name; *Nagapura*, *Nagpur*=the city of serpents. *Patna*, "city," is a well-known emporium on the Ganges. *Srinagar* (in Kashmir)=the city of Sri (the goddess). *Calcutta* (*Kalikata*)=the holy place of Kali, the goddess of destiny.

Deccan (formerly *Dakshina-patha*, or the south way) means the "south," or "southern land"; and the mountains of *Ghats* (*ghāt* is "an ascent in the form of steps") were so named because they are very rugged and steep, and the entrance into the Interior is over only very narrow and difficult passes.

In North-Western India the names are frequently of Arabian and Persian origin. *Stan* = land, *ab* = water (and hence, "the land between rivers"); *abad* = city, *pur* = city, town, *Allah* = God, *shah* = king, *shikar* = hunter, *Hindu* = Indian, *Haidar* (a personal name) = lion; other proper names are *Ahmad*, meaning "the praised," and *Murshid*, "guide," or "spiritual teacher"; *Aurangzib*, the "ornament of the throne," was a famous Mogul, reigning from 1656 to 1707; *panj* = five.

From these we have: *Hindustan*, the land of the Indians, *Panjab* = land of five rivers; *Allahabad* = the city of God; *Haidarabad* (on the Indus and in Deccan) = city of Haidar; *Ahmadabad* = city of (the Sultan) Ahmad; *Aurangabad* = city of (the Great Mogul) Aurang-(zib); *Shahabad* = king's city; *Shikarpur* = hunter's town.

It will illustrate the vast extent of the Arabian empire in former times to remind the pupil that the name of the southern district of Portugal, Algarve, is also Arabic, and signifies "the West."

In the Malayan language *Timor* (the island) means "east," and *Timor-laut* = north-east. The Cingalese *palk* means "whirlpool," hence the Palk Straits. *Colombo* = harbour, and *Galle* = rock. *Cheri* (Tamil) = village, hamlet, *pudu* = new, and *Pondicherry* = (for Puducheri) new city.

India (including—as already mentioned—the islands) has also names of European origin, such as the English words: *strait*, *mount*, *settlement*. *Mount Everest* (Gaurisankar) received its present name from Sir Andrew Waugh, who ascertained its height, 29,002 feet, in honour of Sir G. Everest, the Surveyor-General of India. The *Strait Settlements* are the settlements along the Strait of Malacca.

Dutch names also are met with: *zorg* = care, *buiten* = without, *Buiten-zorg* = without care (cf. the French *Sans-souci*), a town of Java, thirty-six miles south of Batavia, the capital, which has a fine harbour, but an unhealthy climate. This capital of *Batavia* itself takes its name after the *Batavars*, an ancient tribe (in the modern Zeeland, in the kingdom of the Netherlands).

The *Philippine Islands* are called after *Philip II.*, king of Spain (from 1556 to 1598). By the Portuguese the name *Elephanta* was given to the island near Bombay, because one of the most conspicuous works of art was a colossal *elephant* wrought in stone (but now all in ruins).

The lessons on Irania, Arabia, Asiatic Turkey, and Asiatic Russia should be proceeded with in a similar way.

In Africa there might be made three divisions of names: those of North and North-East Africa, those of Central and South Africa, and those of the East and West Coasts and the islands.

In Central and South Africa the Negro languages are very much alike, and new words are formed by prefixes, as in the following: *Sungu* = white; a white man is called *M'sungu*, and a number of white men is *Wa-sungu*; the white man's country is *U-sungu*, and his language

Ki-sungu. *U*=country, and with this prefix are formed the many names of countries in *U*, such as *U-nya-mvesi*, the moon-land, from *mvesi*, the moon; *Uganda*, a fertile region towards the north-west of the Victoria Nyanza (*Nyanza* meaning lake), and many others.

On the Zambezi (which means "stream") are the Victoria Falls, known to the natives as *Mosiwatunya*, a word that expresses the astonishment and awe with which they behold this mighty cataract: *Mo si wa tunya*, "Here roars the smoke!"

The coasts of Africa, we learn from history, were first visited by the Portuguese, and the record of their presence endures in the appellations borne by the natural features of the country. For instance, *angra*=bay, *cabo*=cape; *pequeno* (fem. *pequena*)=little, *verde*=green, *negro*=black, *delgado*=slender. The pupils will, therefore, see for themselves that *Angra Pequena* means "little bay," and the teacher may remark how the name of the bay has been extended to the bordering coast. *Cabo Verde*=green cape, *Cabo Negro*=black cape, *Cabo Delgado*=slender cape, etc. Explained in a similar way, the names taken from other languages will be found to be no less significant.

In South and Central America, in Mexico, and in the West Indies very many names come from the Spanish (in Brazil they are of Portuguese origin), and these are often easily understood.

Even the formidable Mexican words will be divested of their terrors by a little intelligent study. *Tépetl*=mount, *cthuatl*=wife, *cttlalin*=star; *itztac*=white, *pópoca*=smoking. *Citlatépetl* is, therefore, "star-mountain" (so named, because the top of this volcano, during an eruption, glitters like a star); *Pópocatepetl*=smoking mountain (volcano), and *Iztaccitluatl*=white wife. This last is an appellation quite similar to that of the Swiss mountain, the *Jungfrau*, so called from its white, shining appearance, as of a white-robed nun, by the side of its dark neighbour the *Mönch* (monk). Explained in this way the name *Iztaccitluatl* loses its uncouthness.

Méxilli (*Méjilli*) was the name of the Mexican god of war, and *Mexico* signifies the "city of the god of war" (the name of the city has been extended to the country). *Atl* or *a*=water, *nahuac*=near, and *Anahuac* means, therefore, the land "near the water" (i.e. near the lakes on the highland of Mexico), *māzatl*=deer, hence *Mazatlan*=a place of deer, *zacatl*=straw (of Indian corn), *Zacatlan* (now in a Spanish form *Zacatecas*)=place of corn-straw, *tlāxcal*=bread, *Tlaxcallan* (now *Tlaxcala*)=place of bread. *Quáhuatl*=tree, wood, *téma*=put down; of these two words are formed *guatemalli*=pile of wood, and *Guatemallan* (now *Guatemala*)=place of pile of wood.

A great number of the geographical names of the United States and of British North America, and also of Australia and Polynesia, are for English scholars self-evident. In these countries many geographical points and places have been named after distinguished seamen, or other men of high renown, in honour of certain days or events, and such-like. Concerning these, the teacher will state the most prominent facts, remembering, however, that the main object is always the explanation of those names, which can be easily interpreted from the respective languages, while

their forms are such as to admit of their being traced by the unassisted efforts of the students themselves.

If we now come to treat of Europe, it will be found that the Balkan Peninsula played a most prominent part in ancient history; and here the geographical names must be arranged according to the different languages from which they are derived. There is great diversity in these languages; and from these introductory remarks it will be possible to form a clear conception of the vicissitudes suffered by the people of this region. In a similar way the names in Italy, in the Iberian Peninsula, in France, in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, in Belgium and Holland, and in Russia ought to be taken up and explained.

In treating the Polish and Tzechish geographical names, the teacher should point out the great extent of country formerly held by the Slavs between the Elbe and the Saale rivers, the Fichtelgebirge, and the Böhmerwald. As a consequence of this, many of the names in the eastern part of the neighbouring country are of a Slavonian origin, and call for explanation.

In treating of the German Empire, German Austria and Switzerland, it will be found that for English scholars it is very easy to interpret and explain many of the German geographical appellations. *Gebirge* signifies "mountains," *Berg*=mountain, *Koppe*=(head), peak, *Höhe*=height, or hill, (der). *See*=lake, *Gau*=district, *Wald*=forest, woody mountains, *Feld*=field, *Fichte*=pine, *Erz*=ore, *Sandstein*=sandstone, *Schnee*=snow, *König*=king, *Riese*=giant; *Licht*=light, *schwarz*=black; *unter*=among.

From these are formed *Riesengebirge*, meaning "giant mountains"; *Fichtelgebirge*, "pine mountains"; the *Schwarzwald*, or the "Black Forest," so called on account of having been covered with dark pines; *Böhmerwald*=Bohemian Forest; the *Erzgebirge*, or the "ore mountains" yielding silver, lead, and tin. *Elbsandsteingebirge*=sandstone mountains along the Elbe; *Schneekoppe*=snowy peak; *Schneeberg* (in the Sudetes, in the Fichtelgebirge, and in the Elbsandsteingebirge)=snowy mountain; *Feldberg* (in the Black Forest and in the Taunus)=mountain in the field; *Königsee* (in Bavaria)=king's lake; *Aargau* (in Switzerland)=district on the Aar; *Unterwalden*=among the woods; *Liechtenstein* (the principality)=the light stone.

The teacher will further explain: *Bach*=brook, *Münde*, and *Mündung*=mouth, *Hafen* (*Haven*)=harbour, port, *Bad*=bath, *Burg*=castle, *Stadt*=city, *Dorf*=village, . . . *hausen*=town, village, *Kirche*=church, *Mühle*=mill, *Hütte*=smelting-house, *Brücke*=bridge, *Strasse*=street, high-road; *Mönch*=monk, *Jäger*=hunter, *Friedrich*=Frederick, *Karl*=Charles, *Wilhelm*=William, *Anna*=Anne, *Charlotte*=Charlotte, *Marie*=Mary, *Ross*=horse, *Hirsch*=hart, *Habicht*=hawk, *Salz*=salt, *Glück*=good fortune, *Ruhe*=rest, *Nord*=north; *alt* (and *old*, in Low German)=old, *neu*=new, *gross*=great, *weiss*=white, *hoch*=high; *zwei*=two, *fünf*=five.

Now, the scholar will see at a glance that the German *Neuburg* (and also *Neuenburg*) is equivalent to the English "Newcastle," that *Altenburg* and *Oldenburg* mean "old castle," and that *Weissenburg* signifies the "white castle." *Karlsburg* (in Transylvania) is "castle of Charles" (it takes its name from Charles VI., the German Emperor, who reigned from 1711 to

1740); *Charlottenburg*, "castle of Charlotte," was named after the Electress Sophia Charlotte of Brandenburg, in 1695; *Marienburg*, "castle of Mary," was founded by the knights of the "German Order," and named in honour of the Virgin Mary. *Habsburg* (formerly *Habichtsburg*) = castle of hawks, *Salzburg* = salt castle, *Strassburg* = castle on the high road, *Neustadt* "the new city" (in many parts of Germany), *Glückstadt* = city of good fortune, *Grossjägerndorf* (in Eastern Prussia) = great village of hunters (battle in 1757), *Mülhausen* = mill-village, *Nordhausen* = northern village, *Fünfkirchen* (in Hungary) = five churches, *Hochkirch* = the church situated aloft (eastward from Bautzen, Saxony; at this place Frederick the Great was attacked suddenly by the Austrian Field-Marshal Daun, October 14, 1758). *Bruck* (in Steyermark) = bridge, *Innsbruck* = bridge over the Inn, *Saarbrücken* = bridge over the Saar, *Zweibrücken* (commonly *Deux Ponts*, French) = two bridges.

Königsberg = royal mountain (so called after its founder, the King Ottokar of Bohemia, in 1255), *Annaberg* = mountain of Anne (so named in honour of the mother of the Virgin Mary), *Hirschberg* = mountain of harts, *Mühlberg* = mill-mountain (battle in 1547), *Königstein* = royal stone, *Wilhelmshöhe* = William's height, or hill, *Reichenbach* = rich brook, *Rosbach* = horse brook (battle in 1757), *Münden*, and also *Gmünden* (in Austria) = mouth, *Weichselmünde* = mouth of Vistula (in German, *Weichsel*).

Wilhelmshaven, "William's harbour," was so named from William I., the German Emperor and King of Prussia, June 17, 1869. *Friedrichshafen* (on the Lake of Constance), "Frederick's harbour" takes its name in honour of King Frederick I. of Würtemberg. *Baden* (in Baden, in Austria, and in Switzerland) = Bath; *Karlsbad* = bath of Charles (the German Emperor Charles IV. discovered, as it is said, that spring, when hunting in 1347). *Karlsruhe* = rest of Charles (its founder was the Markgrave Charles, in 1715). *München* takes its name from monks, in German, "Mönche"; some monks erected warehouses for salt upon the spot where it now stands.

Hall, it should be added, means winning salt, hence *Halle* on the Saale, *Hallstadt* (in Austria), *Reichenhall*, the rich "Hall" (in Bavaria), and *Hallein*, or little "Hall" (near Salzburg).

There are also some geographical names in Germany which can only be explained from the Ancient and Middle High-German; thus, after *slê*, meaning "a channel," is called the *Schlei*, being a long inlet of a bay of the Baltic Sea; *wik* = village, and *Schleswig* is, therefore, "the village on the (Slê, or the) Schlei," the country taking the same name. From the word *hârt* come the *Hart* and the *Harz*, the "woody mountains"; *Spessart* is a corruption of *Spechteshart*, "woody mountains of woodpeckers" (in German "Spechte"). *Aha*, or *ach* = river, the *Salzach* is, therefore, "salt river"; *âr*, hence the *Aar* (in Switzerland) = water-course; *ôver* (now *Ufer*) = bank, and *han* = high; *Hanover* = the high bank. *Mickel* = great, and *luzil* (*lützel*) = small; (*Mekelenburg*), now *Mecklenburg* = the great castle, and *Lützelburg*, or *Luxemburg* = the small castle.

Some geographical names in Germany originate from the Latin language. The Romans founded a city on the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle, and called it from its situation *Confluentia* (hence the present name *Coblentz*); and farther downwards on the Rhine *Colonia*

Agrippina, the present *Cologne* (in German, *Köln*), *colonia* meaning "a settlement." *Curia*, hence *Chur* (in Switzerland), signifies "residence"; and *castellum*, hence *castel* (opposite the city of Mainz), and *Cassel* (in Hesse) is the English "castle"; *specula* = watch-tower, hence the Splügen Pass. The word *taberna* means a "house of meeting" for travellers, from whence comes the name of the *Zabern*-passage (near Strassburg). In the Middle Ages Latin was the language of the clergy and of learned men, and from those times we have *Celle* (Latin, *cella*), in Hanover, meaning "a cell" (of a monk); *Appenzell* (in Switzerland), "cell of an abbot" (Latin, *abbas*), and *Münster* (in Westphalia), "monastery" (Latin, *monasterium*); *vicus* = village, and *Brunonis vicus*, now *Brunswick*, means, therefore, "village of Bruno" (this city was founded by the Saxon Duke of Bruno, A.D. 861).

Southern Germany was in ancient times inhabited by the Kelts. In their language *carn* meant "a rock," and hence the *Carnic Alps* take their name from the limestone of which they are roughly built up. *Dun*, or *danu* = high, *Tannus* = the high, or the height. *Rénus*, now *Rhine* = the streaming water, or the river; *lûc* = stone, hence *Licus*, now *Lech* = stony river; *dána* = impetuous (violent). To the ancient Keltic name *Dana* the German term *ahwa*, or *ouwa*, was added, and it was formed *Dan-ouwa*, now in German, *Donau* (Latin, *Danuvius*), English, *Danube*, the "impetuous river." *Briga* = mount, and *Brigantium*, now *Bregenz*, means, therefore, "place," or "city on the mountain."

From the Lithuanian *báltas*, "white," we have the *Baltic Sea*, or the "white sea."

It might also be mentioned that the island of *Rügen* takes its name from the ancient German tribes of *Rugies*. *St. Gallen* was called in honour of *Gallus* († A.D. 614), who there built a monastery; and *Constance*, after its founder *Constantius*, father of Constantine the Great. By the Romans was founded, in 15 B.C., on the Lech, *Augusta Vindelicorum*, or "the city of Augustus, in the country of the Vindelices," latterly *Augustburg*, then *Ougsburg*, now *Augsburg*, or castle of Augustus (the Roman Emperor).

In treating the geography of his own country the teacher will, first of all, explain to his pupils, and at once illustrate by examples nearest home, that there are some geographical names intelligible at first sight, others that admit of an interpretation more or less easy, and others again, the origin and meaning of which are lost in obscurity. Then he will give instances, taken from Great Britain and Ireland, from Australia, the United States, etc., and it will be found that names such as the following are self-evident:—*Shark Bay*, *Fair Island*, *The Land's End*, *Black Hills*, *Rocky Mountains*, *Red River*, *Grand Canal*, *Capetown*, *Hot Springs*, *Newport*, *Whitehaven*, and many others; further, that some names are easily understood, if we imagine the signification of the respective syllables and words in former times, or in previously-spoken languages, e.g. *wich* = village, and *Greenwich* is, therefore, "the green village"; *Norwich*, "the northern village"; *Sandwich*, "sandy village"; *folk* (an Anglo-Saxon word) = people, and *Norfolk* means "northern people," and *Suffolk*, "southern people." In the Keltic language *dun* signifies a "hill," and *Snowdon* means, therefore, "snowy hill," etc., etc. All this will be made clearer by citing examples taken from other countries and languages.

It is very interesting to see that nations separated by the greatest distances have sometimes similar geographical appellations. As already mentioned, the German *Jungfrau* is practically equivalent to the Mexican *Iztacihuatl*; the Chinese *Peiho*, like the Turkish *Aksu*, the Arabian *Bahr-el-Abiad*, the New-Greek *Aspropotamo*, the Russian *Bielaia*, the Portuguese *Rio Branco*, signifying the "white river." The Hebrew *Bethlehem* means "house of bread," and the Mexican *Tlaxcallan* (*Tlascalala*) is "place of bread," etc.

Names of cities and towns of later origin are often derived from a characteristic circumstance, or some more or less remarkable natural feature, such as bath, well, spring, water, creek, ford, river-mouth, harbour, head, hill, mountain, stone, and rock.

From the words *bath*, *well*, *spring* are derived: *Bath*, *Baden*; *Holy Well*, *Hotsprings* (Arkansas), *Teplitz* and *Tiflis*, place of warm springs; *Thermopylæ*, gate or pass of warm springs; *Bloemfontein*, flower-spring (Orange Free State).

From *water* and *creek*: *Stillwater* (Minnesota), *Rosbach*, horse creek, *Reichenbach*, rich creek.

From the word *ford*: *Oxford*, *Hartford*, *Waterford*, *Rockford* (Illinois), *Fürth*, ford (Bavaria), *Brody*, ford (Galicia), *Bohemian Brod*, and *German Brod* (Bohemia), *Tientsin*, ford of heaven (China).

From *river-mouth* and *harbour*: *Alnmouth*, *Falmouth*, *Grangemouth*, *Plymouth*, *Portsmouth*, *Yarmouth*, *Münden* and *Gmunden* mouth; *Ostia*, city of the mouth (of the Tiber), *Weichselmünde*, mouth of the Vistula. *Newhaven*, *Whitehaven*, *Newport*, *Southport*, *Maryport*, *Porto*, port; *Puerto-Rico*, rich port, *Porto Alegre*, the frequented port (Brazil), *Port Natal*, Christmas port (South Africa), *Puerto Principe*, prince's port (Cuba), *Port-au-Prince*, prince's port (Hayti), *Le Havre*, the harbour, *Wilhelmshaven*, William's harbour, *Kjöbenhavn* (Copenhagen), trade-harbour, *Bender Abbasi* (also named Gombroon), port of Abbas (Persia).

From *head*, *hill*, *mountain*, *stone*, *rock*: *Gateshead*, *Spithead*, *Maidenhead*, *Holyhead*; *Lead Hills*, *Goldhill* (Nevada), *Montreal*, royal mountain (Canada), and *Königsberg*, royal mountain (Eastern Prussia), *Freiberg*, free mountain (Saxony), *Reichenberg*, rich mountain (Bohemia), *Maidstone*, *Königstein*, king's stone (Saxony), *Tyre*, rock (Syria).

There are also classes of names which refer to the presence and the action of man upon the Earth. Such are the names embodying the words bridge, church (and minster), castle, village, burgh, town, city, and the like.

We have, for instance, from the word *bridge*: *Cambridge*, *Bruck*, bridge, *Innsbrück*, *Zweibrücken*, two bridges, *Alcantara*, the bridge (Spain).

From *church*, and *minster*: *Christchurch*, *Hochkirch*, the church situated aloft; *Fünfkirchen*, five churches (Hungary); *Westminster*, *New Westminster*, *Münster*, monastery (Westphalia); *Dunkirk* (*Dunkérque*, French), originally *Dünkirchen* (German), the church (situated) on the down.

From *castle*: *Newcastle*, *Neufchatel*, *Neuburg* and *Nyborg*; *Altenburg* and *Oldenburg*, and *Stargard*, old castle, *Middelburg*, middle castle (on the island of Walcheren, Holland); *Weissenburg* and *Belgrad*, white castle; *Freiburg*, free castle, *Strassburg*, castle on the high-road; *Temesvar*, castle

(of the Comitatus, or district) of Temes (Hungary); *Tashkent*, stony castle (Russian Turkistan).

From *village*, and its equivalents, such as *wich*, *wick*, . . . *hausen*: *Greenwich*, *Norwich*, *Middlewich*, *Sandwich*, *Warwick*, *Grossjägerndorf*, as already mentioned, great village of hunters; *Nordhausen*, northern village, *Mühlhausen*, mill-village.

From *bourg* and *burg*, meaning city, from *town*, *city*: *Queenborough*, *Edinburgh*, *Edwin's-burgh*; *Canterbury*, city of the Cants; *Newtown*, *Freetown*, *Capetown*, and many others; *Pura* (in Gedrosia), and *Cirta* (now Constantine, in Algeria), and *Patna*, city, *Great Salt Lake City*, *Virginia City*, etc., *Neustadt*, new city (in many parts of Germany), and with the same meaning, *Nystad* (Finland), *Novgorod* (Russia), *Naples*, from *Neapolis* (Italy), *Carthage* (North Africa); *Irkutsk*, city on the Irkut river, *Tobolsk*, *Yeniseisk*, etc.

Many places take their names from *God*, from *men* and *women*. Such are *Allahabad*, city of God, *Babylon* (originally *Bab-ilu*), gate of God, *Lasa*, place of God (Tibet); *Queenstown*, *Georgetown*, *Constantinople*, *Alexandria*, *Washington*, *Charlottetown*, *Annapolis*, *Adelaide*, and many others.

Examples of names derived from *animals* are: *Swansea*, *Buffalo*, *Schwerin*, place of beasts, *Singapore*, city of lions, *Stuttgart*, garden of mares, *Mazatlan*, place of deer, *Hirschberg*, mountain of harts, *Habsburg*, castle of hawks, *Nagpur*, city of serpents, *Aalborg*, castle of eels, etc.

From *plants* there are many like the following: *Oakland*; *Olythus*, place of figs; *Figueros*, fig-trees (Spain); *Florentia*, now Florence, city of flowers; *Cracow*, city of bushes.

We find also names taken from *minerals*: *Coalbrookdale*, *Salzburg*, salt castle, *Esmeralda*, emerald (Venezuela), *Diamantino* and *Diamantina*, rich in diamonds (Brazil), etc.

In treating the subjects of Physical and Mathematical Geography, the names and words, even though familiar, should not be passed over without an explanation made on the spot. It should be shown, for instance, that the Russian *step* (*steppe*) means "a wilderness," or grassy plain, like those of Central Asia and South-Eastern Russia in Europe. So *pustina*, a Slavonic word, means "desert," and from this word the *puszta*s in Hungary are named. *Llano* (Spanish) signifies "flat," and hence the *Llanos*, the treeless "plains" on the Orinoco. From the Spanish *sábana*, "a sheet," and figuratively "a wide plain," comes the term *savanna*, "a grassy plain." The French *prairie*, adopted in English for the *prairies* of North America, means "a meadow." *Pampa*, a Quichua word, signifies "a plain," and is so applied in the Argentine Republic.

The Greek *σφαῖρα* (Latin *sphæra*) means "a ball," "sphere," and ἡμὴ "half." From these we have the word *hemisphere* for half the globe; and we speak of the eastern and the western, the northern and the southern Hemispheres.

The Latin *stella* (pl. *stellæ*) means "star," and *fixus* (fem. *fixa*) = fixed; (*stellæ fixæ*), *fixed stars* are such stars as always retain nearly the apparent position and distance with respect to each other; *πλανᾶσθαι* = to wander; hence *planets* = wandering stars, or such celestial bodies as revolve round the sun; *κόμη* = hair, *κομήτης* = long-haired; *comets* = hair-stars,

distinguished from the planets (by their being visible only for a short period, and also) by a stream of light proceeding from them on one side, forming a tail; ἀστήρ = star, ἀστροειδής = star-like, *asteroids* = star-like bodies; an asteroid is one of the numerous small planets whose orbits are situated between those of Mars and Jupiter, called also planetoids. In like manner the English word *spheroid*, meaning "a globe flattened at the poles," as the Earth is, is formed from the Greek σφαιροειδής = globe-like, having the form of a globe.

The Latin verb *rotare*, "to turn like a wheel," gives us the word *rotation*, the movement of the Earth on its axis; and the verb *revolvere*, to turn again, "to revolve," with the noun *revolutio*, gives us the meaning of the revolution of the Earth, i.e. its motion around the sun.

The foregoing examples sufficiently show how, by applying to the rich field of geographical nomenclature a method of intelligent explanation, the teacher may give to the study a truly living interest.

The interpretation of names will offer frequent occasion for suggestive comparisons. The words *ocean* and *sea*, for instance, have for their equivalents in other tongues *Weltmeer*, *die See*, *Meer*, *πόντος*, *zee*, *more*, *hai*; an *island* is *Insel*, *isola*, *isla*, *ilha*, *île*, *ö*, *holm*, *jesira*, *dvipa*; a *mountain* is *ōpos*, *mons*, *monte*, *mont*, *pen*, *gora*, *Berg*, *jebel*, *thabor*, *giri*, *tepetl*; a *city* is *cité*, *cityà*, *ciudad*, *ville*, *stadt*, *stad*, *dunum*, *gorod*, *pura*, *patna*, *nagara*, *abad*, *kert*, etc.

In elaborating the plan of a method for facilitating and vivifying the study of Geography by an explanation of place-names—such as in the manner already shown—it would be of service to provide a survey and review of the teacher's work. In this way the facts, made fresher by repetition, would be more deeply impressed on the memory. It is a question for consideration whether it would be more advisable to explain all the names belonging to any given language, wherever they may be found, or to treat exhaustively those of one country at a time. There is, however, some danger of going too far, and so of losing sight of the main object.

In the little work, elaborated by the writer, and entitled *Definitions of Geographical Names, with Instructions for their Correct Pronunciation (for the Higher Schools)*, a commencement has been made with the Balkan Peninsula and its chief Greek names; and, that this expedient, as a companion to every School Geography, may be employed in geographical instruction, every European country is treated as a whole. Only in the case of Slavonic and German names has the method been somewhat varied. In the case of foreign political divisions, the larger portions have been considered together. Definitions in physical and mathematical geography form the conclusion.

As the principle of facilitating the study of Geography must always be kept in view, at first only such foreign names should be given as can be easily understood. In the "guide" for pupils separate words with their equivalents should be printed in the order already given; and, after this, in larger type, the compound names with their equivalents. A note, if necessary, should be in parentheses; and the derivation of a name from a distinguished person or from a particular incident should

be given in smaller type. Names explained in different ways, or the meaning of which is in dispute, should be excluded.

This detailed outline of a plan for explaining geographical names opens up a subject of the highest interest in itself, and has been elaborated by the writer under the conviction of its value and usefulness. It will, as he believes, draw teachers and scholars more closely together in their common object by relieving the mind of a burden of dead sounds, and replacing these with living and significant terms. It cannot but contribute to exalt the dignity and widen the scope of geographical study, and must, ultimately, add largely to the progress made in this branch of education.

In conclusion, I may mention that the above treatise, though in part originally contributed to the *Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society, has been entirely remodelled, and adapted for English readers.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the Glasgow Branch of the Society was held in the Hall of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow on the evening of Thursday, 23d April, Dr. Thomas Muir presiding. Mr. W. B. Blaikie read a paper on "How Maps are Made," which was illustrated by a number of models of his own construction and by specimens of instruments used in survey-work, etc.

Mr. Blaikie repeated his lecture in Edinburgh, at a meeting of the Society held on Thursday, 30th April. Colonel Dods presided. At the close of his lecture, Mr. Blaikie was awarded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Dr. Hugh R. Mill.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

EUROPE.

Finland.—The growth of the population in Finland is referred to in *Fennia* (III., 2). Since 1749 fairly accurate statistics have been available. The relative yearly increase was greatest in the five years ending 1800, namely 1·87 per cent. ; and it was least in the five years ending 1810 (1·01 per cent.) and 1870 (0·82 per cent.). In single years the increase was greatest in 1797 (2·44 per cent.); but since 1800 the yearly increase has never exceeded 2 per cent.

The Tcheremis.—Herr P. von Stenin has given a description in *Globus*, Bd. lviii. No. 12, of this Finnish race. The details are taken from a monograph written by Professor Smirnoff, of Kazan University, who visited this people in the spring of 1888. The main body now dwells between the Volga and Viatka ; they are also found on the Kama, the Bielaja and its tributaries. Their country falls into two distinct divisions—the "Mountain Land," stretching from Vassilssursk on the west to Ilyinka on the east, and the "Meadow Land," much larger in extent, bounded on the west by the Vetluga and its tributaries, the Yuronga and the Usta, on the north by the Viatka, on the east by the Ilet, and on the south by the Volga and the Lower Kama. The number of the Tcheremis is given by Smirnoff as 312,591. The mountain-land is well clothed with woods of fir and pine, and possesses a very fertile soil, and its inhabitants, who are taller, more powerful, and handsomer than their lowland brethren, follow agricultural pursuits, while the meadow-land Tcheremis, 70 per cent. of whose territory is covered with forest, maintain them-