VI.—THE ENGLISH ELEMENT IN ITALIAN FAMILY NAMES. By Signor CESARE POMA.

[Read at a Meeting of the Philological Society on Friday, February 7, 1919.]

THE recent completion of Mr. H. Harrison's important work on the surnames of the United Kingdom suggests a very natural corollary, and, if I may say so, an even more appropriate appendix to that work than the Appendix of foreign surnames in England which Mr. Harrison has added to the main subject, whose elaborate study he has so courageously undertaken and ably completed. I mean surnames of English origin abroad. What traces have the English people and the English language left in other countries? Of course I can only answer for my own, that is, Italy.

Unlike your country, no Italian Harrison has yet produced for Italy, not to say a complete, but not even a partial dictionary of Italian surnames; some good work has been done on Tuscan Surnames of the Middle Ages, certain sets of surnames of other regions of Italy have been sporadically studied, but the long and bulky work of an historical and etymological Dictionary of Italian surnames remains still a "desideratum".

It is, however, being rapidly prepared. Several yards of slips are already in existence, bearing on nearly 30,000 names, and if it will not be given to myself to edit the work of many years, somebody younger will take up and carry the burden to fulfilment.

This is not the place to expatiate further on Italian Onomastic, and may I be permitted to say only this, that a complete Bibliography of what ground has been already trodden on the subject of Italian names can be seen in one of my essays on Italian Onomastic, whose title is "I Composti Verballi" (Surnames from Verbs—type Shakespeare), Turin, 1910.

Now, *pour revenir à nos moutons*, as the French say, I must admit offhand that the subject of the English element in Italian surnames is quite limited.

Not that English associations with Italy are by any means small; on the contrary. An Englishman who would undertake an historical pilgrimage to Italy would find almost anywhere

some ancient memories: Harvey studying at Padua, the Admirable Crichton slain at Mantua, Enea Silvio's Embassy to Scotland frescoed in the Siena Cathedral, Henry of Cornwall killed in front of the altar in Viterbo—and how many more in Rome! the tomb of Hadrian IV (Breakspeare) in the Vatican Crypts, Henry VIII's dedication copy to the Pope of his book against Luther and a love letter in French to Anne Boleyn in the Vatican Library, not to speak of the boastful inscription of Claudius on his conquest of Britain, in the Barberini garden, QUOD REGES BRITANNIAE ABSQUE ULLÂ JACTURÂ DOMUERIT ATQUE GENTES BARBARAS PRIMUS PACAVERIT.

Why, even this small town of Biella, where I am writing, in a remote corner of Piedmont, has had associations with England; in 1557 Father Augustin of Biella was sent to England to claim from Queen Mary the Catholic the restitution of the Priory of Chesterton to the Abbey of St. Andrew in Vercelli. Still earlier, the Bishops of Vercelli, who were the lords of this town, kept in the castle here a bodyguard of English archers, who in 1377 vainly endeavoured to defend Bishop John Fieschi when the Biellese revolted, stormed the castle, and made the Bishop prisoner in the then equivalent of our pyjamas. From such archers it has been playfully suggested that the *Gromo*, Counts of Ternengo, one of the leading families, may derive their name from "groom".

However, we must confess that the English element is the smallest of all that in the course of centuries went to form the multifarious congeries of Italian surnames.

Next to Latin names and nouns, we owe by far the largest debt to the Teutonic language of the Longobards and later the Germans, from one end to the other of Continental Italy. We owe something to the Franks, and much more, later on, to the French, especially to the Provençaux. Next I would place Greek, which during Byzantine domination has left many relics in the names of Southern Italy. Many names in Sicily and Calabria are of Albanian origin. Some are Slav in Friuli and sporadically along the Adriatic coast. Even Hebrew and Arabic—the former among Jews and the latter in Sicily—claim precedence before English in their contribution to Italian Onomastic. May I

mention that a brief essay on the Arabic element has seen, or will shortly see the light, in the *Revue du Monde Musulman*.

Let us see what we can trace to England among our surnames. We shall leave out of count those which are of recent importation, however well naturalized, like *Acton* (who came to Naples in the end of the eighteenth century), *Winspeare*, *Cornish*, sometimes incorrectly written *Cornisch*, and *Stuart*. But à propos of the last one, it must be noted that, while we call the Stuarts *Stuárdi*, the Italian surname *Stuardi* has nothing to do with the famous Scotch name, but is genuinely Teutonic, being derived, in Poirino (Piedmont), where it is quite frequent, from a place called Stoharda, Stoharda, Stodegarda, synonymous with Stuttgart in Germany.

Of course some English settled in Italy may have lost their identity, through their name becoming Italianized beyond recognition. Who would detect under *Acuto* or *Aguto*, fifteenth century, the surname Hawkwood, if it had been worn by any less famous robber than Sir John, whose tomb is one of the ornaments of S. Maria del Fiore in Florence? By a similar chance we know that Gualterio *Offamil* or *Offamilio*, Archbishop of Palermo, twelfth century, was an Englishman, Walter of The Mill.

It would be Byzantine to speculate whether the first Shakespeare was a Crollalanza gone to England as a mercenary or a merchant, or whether our first Crollalanza was a Shakespeare come to Italy in some company of venture. The truth is that such names were parallel in the different countries, the French equivalent being at that time Levelance, like Briselance for Breakspeare (see an article in the *Literary Supplement of The Times* of 1916, p. 189).

It can be assumed that the English or Scotch surnames, being of an impossible pronunciation in Italian mouths, were dropped and displaced by the simple indication of their nationality. It explains the frequency of such surnames as these from "inglese":

Anglés, *Anglese*, *Anglesio*, in Northern Italy, under the Franco-provençal influence of Anglois, Anglais, like Anricus for Enricus. Ancient forms: Johannes *Anglisus* de Costiglolliis (Costigliole near Saluzzo), 1330. Alelm filius Englesco, Turin, 1156, where Englesco stands for Inglese, as the personal name Francesco meant originally Francese (French). In Aulelmus *Anglius*, Turin,

1175—evidently the same person—*Anglius* is a literary form for Anglus, Latin for *English*, as in the case of Bonusjohannes *Anglicus*, Pinerolo, 1180, whom we find also called Bonusjohannes *Engelus* (i.e. Anglus), 1173. An identical case is Petrus de Anglico, Pinerolo, 1194. Some of the famous Visconti of Milan called themselves Anglus as a claim to descend from one Angliexius, a mythical Rex Lombardorum in the year 607; this presumed Teutonic name is placed by Förstemann in his great work on German names under the root “angil”, from which also the ethnical name of the English comes.

Inghilesi, in Tuscany, where the group “gl” is softened into “ghil”. Dominus Benencasa Engilesi dixit suo juramento, etc., Orvieto, 1263. Inghilese became also a personal name in Tuscany in the Middle Ages; we find one witness Ingilese, Arezzo, 1162. A feminine name Anghilese was in use in Pistoja in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In the same city of Pistoja we also meet with the personal name Inghilesca, thirteenth century, and with the derivative form, a pet form, Inghiluccia, in the same century. The problem is more difficult for the following forms in the Chartularies of Camaldoli, Tuscany; Ingilsassa, a widow, 1152; Rolandinus (filius) Ingelsie, 1145; Rolandinus (filius) Ingilsie, 1146; Rolandinus (filius) Inglisie, 1170. Do they belong to this last form Inglisia, which would mean Inglese? Or are they misspellings for Inghisia, which also occurs, and which is the feminine form of Inghitius, i.e. the Teutonic name Ingizo, from the different root “ingvi”?

Inglese, the general form through Italy. It was also spelt with *E*: Jacobus Englesius or Englenscus, Ivrea, 1224. Magister Franciscus Englesius, fisicus, Chivasso, thirteenth century.

Inghilterra, i.e. originally a native of England.

It would be difficult to explain why the personal name meaning English was so frequently adopted by the fair sex in Pistoja, where we also come across the forms Engelesca, Hengelescha. However, it did not meet with the same undying popularity as the names Francesco and Francesca. Saint Francis of Assisi was so called by Bernardone, his father, because he had been a merchant in France; had he been a merchant in England, and reminiscent of it when christening his son,* Inglesco would now be a world-wide and imperishable name.

To Scotland we are tributary for the following family names : *Scoto*, *Scoti*, *Scotoni*; *Scotti*, *Scottini*, *Scotto*, *Scotton*, *Scottoni*; *Scuotto*, Naples, where " o " between hard consonants is stretched to "uo"; from *Scotus*, Latin for *Scotch*, which we find also as a personal name, for instance, *Scotus de Teralbis*, thirteenth century, in *Codex Astensis*; *Scotto Paparone*, Senator of Rome, 1198; *Romanus de Scotto*, 1109, Rome. The gentle sex also affected the name of *Scota* or *Scotta*, as evidenced by *Claricia de Scotta*, mother of Pope Innocent III; *Donna Scotta*, mother of *Bobo*, Senator of Rome, in 1188; *Scotta dei Panciatichi*, the historical family of *Pistoja*, and these names became the metronymic surnames *Scota*, *Scotta*. In Piedmont we have the Counts *Scozia di Calliano*, whose original form was evidently *de Scotiâ*, i.e. immigrated from Scotland. The most illustrious of the many families bearing the surname of *Scotti* is that of Counts *Douglas Scotti*, of *Piacenza*, of which city they were the lords in the thirteenth century, but I think that *Douglas* was adopted at a much later date and probably without any historical foundation. I do not know whether I am right in adding to this category the surname *Britannici*, fifteenth century, famous printers, whose original home was *Palazzolo* in the territory of *Brescia*, because very likely their family took its name, not from British origin, but from an ancestor called by the Roman name *Britannicus*.

Have we to acknowledge anything from Ireland? I find a single occurrence of the surname *Irlandini*, but we use for "Irish" the desinence *ese*, not *ino*, as well in the past as now; *Irlandini* would rather suggest a name *Irlando* of Teutonic origin, possibly *Erl-and* from root "erla". As, however, *Förstemann* has no such name, nor have I found it in Italian documents, no pronouncement can be made on that surname for the present, and there the matter must stand. But it shows very usefully how careful we must be in this sort of study, not to be guided merely by sound, or beguiled by appearances, the right road to interpretation lying through a diligent investigation of the historical sources.

The surname *Brandani* is only indirectly creditable to Ireland, as *St. Brandan*, the Irish Bishop of the fifth century, was very popular on the Continent, and became the subject of many legends, and his name was largely adopted.

What about the Welsh ? Many years ago, when I was Consul in Cardiff, I came across some historical papers showing that after the battle of St. Fagans (sixteenth century) some thousands of Welsh prisoners were hired by the English Parliament to the Republic of Venice, and it was then my intention to make in the Venetian Archives some researches which later circumstances have denied me. It would be only natural that some Morgan or Lloyd or Rhys or Lewellyn should have settled down in Venice or some other Venetian town, becoming married to some Venetian girl with Titian hair, and blessed with Italo-Welsh children, saying "boreu da" to father and "buon giorno" to mother. Might not the famous anatomist, Morgagni (1682-1771), whose bust, I think, you have at St. Thomas's Hospital in London, have been a Morgan ? The surname Morgani is also one of Treviso in the territory of the Serenissima. Alas ! let not ourselves be carried away by such pleasant fancies. Nothing of the kind. Morgani is found there already in the fourteenth century, and comes from a place-name, Morgano, in the same province, which in its turn probably comes from a German agrarian measure, the "morgen", that country having been long subject to German invaders.

Summing up, the English material is avowedly very scanty. As I pointed out at the beginning, the reason is that English names in Italy would become distorted and fashioned with an Italian appearance. Even our cultured historians of the Cinquecento hardly ever reproduce correctly the famous names of the times of Henry VIII and his successors. Cardinal Reginald Pole, to mention just one instance, is always called Polo, and it is evident that any less distinguished Pole would have seen his name merged into the large family of the Polo or Poli, whose meaning is simply Paul.

There is a set of surnames which, if the line is stretched long enough, can ultimately be found to pertain to the British Isle ; that is the surnames taken from names of the Arthurian cycle. King Arthur, who became in Italian Artú, is recalled in the surnames Artusi, Artusio, Artuso ; Sir Gauvain, the perfect knight, in those of Galvagno, Galvagni, Galvano, Galvani, and so on. But really they do not come within the scope of this paper, because the Arthurian names spread all over the Continent, and

as a matter of fact they came to Italy through the French translations, as is manifested by Artusi, Artusio, Artuso, which reproduce the French form Artus, personal name in Brittany, fourteenth century. The heroes of the Arthurian romances lend me a peg for hanging a pleasant end to this rather dreary paper.

In the cycle of Carolingian romances Morando is the foster-father of Charlemagne; his name became likewise very popular, and besides the surnames Morandi, Morandetti, etc., it has remained in a curious popular song of Piedmont, called Moran d'Inghilterra (Morand of England). It was published by Costantino Nigra, the great Ambassador, who did not disdain to devote his spare time to the "*Canti popolari del Piemonte*" (1888), the popular songs of Piedmont.

I translate it faithfully from the Piedmontese dialect, and with it I crave your indulgence for having detained you on a rather flimsy pretext.

MORAND OF ENGLAND.

The daughter of the Sultan
 is such a beautiful girl;
 beautiful as she was,
 they did not know to whom to give her.
 They gave her to Morand,
 to Morand of England.
 The first day that he married her,
 he does nothing but kiss her.
 The second day after he married her,
 Morand wants to leave her.
 The third day after he married her,
 Morand goes to the war.
 The fair one, however, asked :
 "Morand, when shall you be back?"
 "If I come not in seven years,
 you, fair one, marry again."
 The fair one waited seven years,
 Morand was never coming.
 The fair one jumps on a horse,
 she rides all over England.

The first whom she met
is a herdsman of cows.

"Herdsman, O good herdsman,
whose are these cows ? "

"These cows are to Morand,
to Morand of England."

"Herdsman, O good herdsman,
has Morand a wife ? "

"To-day is the day
that Morand marries one ;
if you ride a little faster,
you will arrive at the hour of the wedding."
The fair one spurs the horse,
she arrives at the hour of the wedding.
In a cup of gold
they invited her to drink.

"(As to) Drink, I drink not,
until the cup is mine.

(As to) drink, I drink not
so long as here there is another woman.

(As to) drink, I drink not
until I am the mistress."

Morand falls on her neck,
Morand of England.

"Mistress you always were,
Mistress you shall always be."