THE NAME.

WE may claim for our system of nomenclature, the hoariest antiquity, since it was instituted by the Creator himself when his crowning work stood complete before him, and was pronounced "very good."

Curiously enough the first man was named from the substance of which his body was formed—Adam—red earth, and quite naturally he in time, gave to his children names suggested by the substances, or objects sensible to his touch, or vision; in this way no doubt, arose the custom, almost universal in the East, of applying names which *meant* something; which signified some time, place, quality, or circumstance connected with the individual's birth, or perhaps some incident in the life of his parents.

It was the Romans, if we mistake not, who first dignified the individual by the application of two or more names—the prænomen and the cognomen, answering to our christian or baptismal name, and surname—a custom which has become as universal as it is proper, and necessary; and from them the various nations of Europe coming under vassalage, no doubt derived the custom. Old English surnames arose in various ways, some in a manner admitting an easy explanation, while others have baffled the most learned and ingenious research.

By far the largest number were derived from occupation, as Farmer, Fuller, Shepherd, Walker, Rider, etc.; another large class from mental and physical peculiarities, as Short, Sharp, Quick, Keene, Long, and still another from natural and visible objects, as Wolfe, Hogg, Lyon, Hay, Rose, Reed, etc.

This list might be extended indefinitely, and may be continued by the reader at his pleasure.

Another very important and interesting class of names is of foreign origin, and was introduced at the time of the Norman invasion and conquest.

Camden, (quoted by Lower in his valuable work on "English Surnames") observes on this point, that there is scarcely a village in Normandy which has not surnamed some family in England,