"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

Amenities and Humors of the City Directory-The Smiths, Browns, Joneses, Robinsons, and Other Numerous Families of Philadelphia,

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

When one desires to find the place of business or residence of a man or woman whose name he has heard for the first time, a City Directory is an excellent and a convenient thing to have accessible. But when one has no such use for the article, it is generally considered a cumbersome and unsightly affair, and is apt to receive no attention whatever. Yet there is much to be gained in the way of amusement, if not of instruction, by turning over the monotonous pages of such a volume. We confess to having passed the better portion of an entire day in this engrossing occupation; and out of consideration for such of our readers as are not gifted with a sufficiency of patience to enable them to undertake the task, we present them with the result of our investigations.

The volume which we explored at such great length was the new "Directory of Philadelphia," just published by Mr. James Gop-As we have already stated, this "Directory" is by far the most complete and reliable of all that have ever been published in this city, and is nearly one-half larger than any of its predecessors. It contains 1700 doubleeclumn octavo pages, 1367 of which are devoted to an alphabetical list of the inhabitants of the city. The names of about 164,000 different persons, together with their occupations, places of business, and residences, are given; and as this comprises over one-fifth of the entire population of the city, it is safe to say that every family within its limits is represented at least once.

THE "NUMEROUS" FAMILIES OF PHILADELPHIA are given below, with the number of times

that each surname is repeated:-...1713 Mitchell. 923 Wagner Smith.. Brown ... Miller ... 83z Snyder. 614 Adams. 598 Burns... Wilson .. Johnson. 591 Harris.... 586 Kennedy Jones... Williams... 539 King., Watson Davis. 12 Cooper..... 493 Hamilton. Taylor. Thompson. O'Brien... Campbell, Young..... 431 Price Thorns. Martin, 413 Boyd. 404 Donnelly 377 Hall Clark . Lewis,..... Dougherty 355 Ward. 352 Wallace 349 Cook...... 342 Crawford, Murphy. Fox...... Henry.. Allen .. Myers Baker. Evans 316 Patterson Stewart. 301 Quinu., 291 Parker. Robinson. Scott. Morris Anderson .. Gallagher .. 274 Foster. Armstrong Welsh..... 261 Black 258 Turner 256 Lee 250 Kiley .. Jackson Roberts. Green.. Murray. 241 Johnston.

In addition to the above, there are a large number of names which occur more than 100 times, but less than 150 times. Of these we give the following only, as they are usually

ollins ..

236 Puillips..

211 Waiton

Barr Sulli Shav Hun	vanter	148 Cox 127 126 Brooks 124 145 Carpenter 123 143 Kelley 122 142 Russell 119 185 Bacon 63
THE	PATRONYMICS	"MAC, " ""0", " "VAN, " AND

are all well represented. But, as might have been anticipated, the "Macs" lead all the rest, there being about 7200 which acknowledge, by the use of this prefix, their Caledonian or Celtic origin. The most numerous divisions of this great family are the following:-

McLaughlin 241 McDevitt.
McCormick 143 McDermott.
McBride 141 McAllister.
McDonald 122 McGrath. There are also no less than 26 McCrackens

in the city, but not one "George W." among them, which is a matter of considerable astonishment, inasmuch as "George W." is a very popular Christian name. It is to be accounted for, perhaps, by the well-known fact that "Mr. George W. McCracken" has not yet returned from his travels abroad. The patronymic "O'" follows "Mac" in

the order of numerical strength, there being about 720 persons who are not ashamed of their Hibernian ancestors. The 201 O'Briens are hard pressed by 143 O'Neills, in addition to whom there are 63 who spell the name O'Neil.

Of "Vans" of all sorts, there are about 480. In this good old Dutch family, the Van Horns predominate, to the number of 65.

"Fitz" is likewise a favorite patronymic, being prefixed to the names of twenty different families; while there are three original and genuine Fitzes, who contrive to get along without any superfluous cognomen. The most numerous branch of the Fitz family is that of Fitzpatrick, which numbers 123, and that of Fitzgerald comes next, with 82 members. There is one double-Fitz, who styles himself Fitzehilds, and 5 Fitzers.

The patronymic "Saint" does not appear to be regarded with much favor in this locality, as there are only 4 St. Clairs, and the same number of St. Johns.

The suffix "son," which is equivalent in English to the prefixes "Mac" and "Fitz," is well represented. In addition to the 250 Robertses there are 61 Robertsons. There is 1 Steven, 82 Stevenses, and 118 Stevensons; together with 42 Stephenses, and 16 Stephensons. To the numerous family of Williams, which has 586 members, there should be added 112 Williamsons, to give its entire strength. THE "SMITH" FAMILY,

as is always the case, is numerous, interesting, and illustrious. The total strength of those belonging to it who are not ashamed of the plain and simple spelling, is 1713. But they have several German cousins, who have various fantastic ways of spelling the name, among the most ingenious of which is Schmidz as well as a few who prefer "y" to "i." The different branches of the family muster the following numbers:-

Smith ... 102 Smythe 32 Schmidz

Of the 1713 genuine and original Smiths, | 940 are thus distinguished from each other:-William Smith ... 142 Henry Smith. John Smith 195 Joseph Smith John A. B. C. D. E. Samuel Smith F. G. H. Smith, etc. 101 Robort Smith James Smith 85 Jacob Smith George Smith 84 Elizabeth Smith Thomas Smith

THE UNIQUITOUS JOHN SMITH, ESQ. We acknowledge a feeling of regret, almost of sorrow, in fact, in being compelled to place Mr. William Smith at the head of this list. This honorable position belongs of right to his brother John. But there is some consolation in being able to show that, when to the fraternity of John Smiths are added the John Smith, Jr.'s, and John Smiths with divers middle names, we have 289 in all, thereby placing William in his secondary and proper place. To prevent all such disputes arising in the future, we would advise the Smith family henceforth to omit the middle letter, and christen their eldest boy John, and John alone. The colored branch of the family have viewed the matter in the proper light, as of the 9 American citizens of African descent who are known by the name of John Smith, only two have a middle letter. The entire strength of the colored branch of the Smith family is 78, which renders John Smith, colored, a very little more omnipresent, in proportion, than John Smith, white.

The various occupations whereby plain and simple John Smith gains a livelihood, are of interest in this connection. In these matters he displays such a great variety as to prove conclusively the liberality of his tastes and the cosmopolitan nature of his character. He is duplicated as a laborer 19 times; as a shoemaker, 6 times; as a weaver, 4 times; as a butcher, 3 times; as a baker, blacksmith, cooper, dyer, plater, eigarmaker, spinner, stonemason, tailor, waiter, and watchman, twice; while solitary and alone he pursues his task as a bookmaker, boxmaker, bricklayer, carman, carpenter, clerk, coachman, combmaker, conductor, crier, crimper, cutter, drayman, fireman, furniture dealer, gardener, gilder, grocer, gunsmith, batter, hotel-keeper, hosiery dealer, hostler, lager beer vender, liquor dealer, looking-glassmaker, machinist, mariner, milkman, morocco dresser, packer, peddler, physician, plasterer, plumber, porter, produce dealer, publisher, upholsterer, and whitewasher. In addition to this, he appears as a gentleman of leisure in ten different places. His son, John Smith, Jr., follows the

occupations of grocer, plater, and salesman. Before we are done with John Smith, we must not neglect to state that he has recently been highly honored by the genial "Mark Twain," of California, whose proper and real name is C. H. Webb. This rising humorist has just published a little volume entitled "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," which he thus dedicates:—

"To John Smith, whom I have known in divers and sundry places about the world, and whose many and manifold virtues did always command my esteem, I dedicate this book. It is said that the man to whom a volume is dedicated always buys a copy. If this prove true in the present instance, a princely affluence is about to burst upon the AUTHOR." If Mark had dedicated his "Jumping Frog'

to William Smith, he would have had thirtyseven more customers in Philadelphia than he will secure according to the theory advanced above. We will close our review of the Smith family

by noticing the fact that it embraces 61 widows, 9 of whom are known by the modest Christian name of Hannah.

BROWN, JOHNSON, JONES, AND THOMPSON. These four persons are also well known, by reason of their ubiquitous characteristics. Brown appears no less than 923 times, having an African cast of countenance in 102 instances. He answers to the name of William in 93 cases, and to that of John in 89; and to Thomas and James about 50 times each. In 62 places he appears as George Brown, in 13 as George W. Brown. Mr. Brown, however, does not seem to be long-lived, as he has left 72 widows with good Christian names, and 2 who are known simply as the Widow Brown.

Mr. Johnson responds to his name 598 times, and Mr. Johnston 153 times, so that we can place the full strength of this important family at 751. The colored branch of the family is quite numerous, there being 122 Johnsons, but only 2 Johnstons (both of them being widows), which goes far towards convincing us that Johnson is the better spelling of the two, and also that colored Johnstons do not thrive in Philadelphia. William Johnson is more frequently encountered than John Johnson, there being 65 of the former name and only 61 of the latter. Andrew Johnson resides in 4 different localities in the city, but, as far as we can ascertain, he is in no instance identical with "the man at the other end of

the avenue." Mr. Jones, whom we meet 591 times altogether, bears the Christian name of William 8 times, and that of John 58 times. John Jones, however, has a middle letter in 31 cases, so that plainly, simply, and originally, he appears but 27 times.

In 472 different localities we encounter a Thompson who spells his name with a "p;" in 61 others the "p" is discarded, and it is plain and simple Thomson. Thomas Thompson is met with 21 times, and William Thompson 52

WHITE AND BLACK

criterions of the color of those who bear these simple cognomens. Of the 404 Whites, 31 are black; while of the 158 Blacks, only 11 are of corresponding hue. In addition to the 404 members of the White family, there are 137 whose names are a compound of White and head man, house, side, etc. But among all these there is not a single person of African descenta striking instance of the preference shown by the latter race for short and simple cognomens.

DIVERS SURNAMES WITH A MEANING. The 342 Fishers are assisted by 51 Fischers in catching 21 Fish. There are also 13 persons by the name of Troutman, who encounter 35 Trout. The 211 Kings have 21 relatives with the more classical name of Rex. The 90 Steels are preyed upon by 52 persons by the name of Steeler, and 9 by the name of Steelman; but all these have the good taste to spell their names with the double "e." The 201 Walkers have 2 Walks just before them.

The Rose is a favorite prefix with many families, there being at least 20 different ter-minations added to it. But there are 82 who prefer the Rose without the additional sylla-ble. Bæsides the 258 Woods, there are 65 Woodses, as well as 165 persons whose names are compounded of Wood and head, house,

The Water family sets out with 2 Wateralls and terminates with 51 Waterses, there being, in addition, 47 persons whose names are made up of Water and field, ford, house, man, and the like. Bearing some mysterious relation to these are 124 Brookses, and 62 others, who have a fancy for the final "e," and other varia-

VARIETIES IN THE SPELLING OF SURNAMES. Families bearing the same name are frequently distinguished from each other by slight variations in the spelling. Thus, there

are 53 Abbotts, and 4 Abbots; 377 Clarks, and 71 Clarkes: 183 Cooks, and 36 Cookes: 21 Dales, 22 Daileys, 30 Dailys, 28 Daleys, and, amounting to all the others put together, 102 Dalys. To the 539 Kellys should be added 122 Kelleys; and to the 327 Myerses, 101 Meyers, 69 Meyerses, and 18 Myers—making

a total of 515. The 155 members of the Riley family are kindred to 98 Reillys, 19 Reilleys, and 14 Reilys, giving a total of 286. The 216 Snyders have German cousins to the number of 69, who spell the name Schneider. The Wolf family of 118 members is similarly enlarged to 201 by those who add a final "e," "f," and other letters and syllables, the 2 Wolfersbergers carrying this principle to the greatest

The 167 members of the Rogers family are all supposed to be direct lineal descendants of that John Rogers who was burned at the stake in Smithfield some centuries ago, and 18 still hold his memory in reverence by adopting his Christian name of John. There are also 3 Rogersons, who are evidently of similar ancestry, as well as one Rodger and 72 Rodgerses who are debarred this high privilege by the superfluous "d."

WILLIAM, JOHN, AND GEORGE

are among the most popular Christian names-William, because there must be at least one by that name in every household; John, because it is the first name of the illustrious John Smith, spoken of above; and George, be-cause by that title the "Father of his Country"

was known. William is the most popular of the three as a Christian name, and has likewise given a surname to the 586 members of the Williams family, of whom 38 are easily distinguished from each other by the double expletive of William Williams. To avoid this painful alliteration, John is the most popular Christian name in the Williams family, which boasts of 62 members with that title. The family is further increased to a grand total of 694 by 108 Williamsons, 13 of whom call themselves William Williamson. It likewise enjoys many colored connections, there being 98 by the name of Williams, but only I by the name of

Prominent among those who have William for their Christian name is the celebrated gentleman who was "struck" a long time ince in such violent and unprovoked fashion that the whole civilized world has since made inquiry into the matter. But should "the man who struck Billy Patterson" ever be discovered, the affair would still be surrounded with difficulties, as there are no less than 27 different and distinct persons answering that name in the city of Philadelphia

Surpassing in ubiquity the unfortunate William Patterson is the equally fortunate John Anderson, who has been such a favorite with the young girls of Scotland and other countries. When a romantic maiden lifts up her voice to sing "John Anderson, my jo, John," she finds 43 respondents in this locality.

The family of Adams is also as well supplied with Johns as it was in the earlier days of the republic. The elder President of that name is reproduced by 38 John Adamses, and the younger by 6 John Quincy Adamses, 4 of latter being colored. But John is encountered most frequently among the members of the Ross family, 19 of the 91 indivi-duals belonging to which—being more than 20 per cent .- are distinguished from the world and from each other by the title of John Ross. As a notable instance of the popularity of George as a Christian name, we may mention that there are but 9 Washingtons in the city, 7 of whom are called George. Of the latter,

6 are colored. There are few families, however, in which the supremacy of William and John is disputed. The Sullivans are among these, and although they muster only 143 all told, 8 of them have the Scriptural name of Jeremiah. The 135 members of the Ryan family have also joined the opposition, 13 of them answering to the name of Michael. It might be supposed that the Thomases would be found in the same category, with Thomas for a prevalent Christian name; but this is not the case. Out of a total of 427, there are but 4 Thomas Thomases, while as many as 54 pass by the name of William Thomas.

SOME CURIOUS AND PANTASTIC SURNAMES. Among thousands of odd names, we stumble across 56 persons who are Stout, 24 who are Swift, 26 who are Slack, 5 who are Sweet, 26 who are Short, and 3 who are Shott-with a double "t." One person only is satisfied with Salt; but there are 10 Salters, 3 Salterses, 1 Saltsgiver, and 3 Salthouses. There are 10 who are given to Slaughter, and 32 who are Savage, while 12 do not fancy the latter version but use the spelling Savidge. There are 35 who Rush, one who is a Rusher, and one a Rushman. There is also a Snake, a Snagg, 2 Snares, and a Tease; 5 Staggs, 2 Staggers, and 5 Stagers. There are 4 who Pickup 6 Plums and 3 Thistles; 9 who have Pluck, and 12 who are gifted with Fury. There are 4 who Trott, and 19 who are Trotters; 3 who are Weak, and 6 who are Weakley; 13 who are named after the Moon, and 92 who are said to be Mooney; 3 who are mere Fellows, and 1 who is guilty of Felloney. There is 1 People and 24 Peoples; and 25 Funks, of whom not one is named Peter. The abbreviation Sam satisfies two, and one is content with simple Tom. The objectionable title of Roach is borne by 33, to whom are allied 10 others who have sought to remedy the objection by spelling their names Roache, Roatch, and Roats. And, finally, one person passes by the curious name of Schuntzel, and another by that of Spontowicz. TRADES BY WAT OF SURNAMES.

When families began to assume surnames, we are assured that they usually took those which distinguished their occupation or calling. If this be so, the greater portion of the descendants of those so named have deserted the occupations of their ancestors, for among 97 Shoemakers, we find only 9 who are now identified with the trade; and out of the 493 Taylors, but half a score now ply the needle and thread. There are 7 bakers among the 316 Bakers; 6 carpenters among 123 Carpenters; and 4 coopers among 204 Coopers. the 832 Millers, only 2 superintend the grinding of wheat; while there is not a solitary turner among the 157 who bear that name.

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