

## FASHIONS IN GIRLS' CHRISTIAN NAMES.

BY DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.

## PART I.



RECENT writer tells us that amongst the lower orders in England, only twenty years ago, there were but eight Christian names in ordinary use for boys, but that at present the

list has extended. It now comprises no less than fifteen for choice; while, so far as girls are concerned, the number seems ever widening day by day; and the course of English history, and the various reigns of our kings and queens, may be traced by the girls' names in fashion in the century.

If we begin with the Normans we find that most of our male names, even in present use, date from them. William, Henry, Robert, Richard, John, Hugh, Herbert, Roger, Reginald, Gilbert, have all of them been popular in England through all the centuries that have passed. And the same may be said of the names of girls, although there are fewer of them to chronicle. Matilda, or Mahault, or Molde, as the Normans call it, seems to have been the favourite royal name for many years, and to have been Anglicised into Maude, which is to-day the name of a royal princess. Matilda was originally Gothic, and Saxon, and comes from the word Magan, "to be able," from whence our irregular verb "may." Many names of German origin come from it; also the name Manfred, and the English surname Maynard. Adela, the mother of the Conqueror, is the first we hear of that name, which later on came into England as Alix, when Alix *la Belle* married Henry I., the original name being Adelheid—noble-cheer—but Latinised into Alix, Adela, Adelaide, Alicia, Adeline, Elsie, and made by the English into Alice. It is not so long since we had another Queen Adelaide, and a Princess Alice also. You see that Elsie is not derived from Elizabeth, for it is of far older use in England; nor from the Scottish Alison, but from the English Alice.

The girls in England in those days were chiefly called from the names of saints. Lucy, Agnes, Cecily, Constance; and from an English saint we have two names—Awdry, and the modern Ethel, St. Ethelthryth being canonised as St. Etheldreda, and called by the peasantry St. Awdry; and from the worthless things sold at her fairs we take the word "tawdry."

We find also at this time the names of Emma, Edith and Agatha. Edith, the daughter of King Malcolm, and of Margaret of Scotland, the sister of Edgar Atheling, took the name of Madilda, as a royal name, as it was thought to be at that time. We had five or six of the name, until it was succeeded by the Provençal Eleanor of Provence, which alternated with the other Provençal Isabel, till the beginning of 1300. Then the crimes of that Isabel made the name, as a royal one, unpopular. Alienor is a version of Helena, which means "light," and is a name of the Sun in Greek. Helen of Troy is our first acquaintance who bore it, and she seems to have made it proverbial for evil, from which it was redeemed by St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, the great Christian Emperor of Rome, who is claimed as of British birth. The name has always been used in Wales, under the form of Ellin, but Elaine is the old

Cambrian form of it. Helen is called Ellen in Scotland, and appears as Aileen in Ireland; in Provence it was turned into Aliénor; while in Spain it was metamorphosed into Leonor. It was a royal name as long as the Plantagenets were on the throne, and to-day we have a princess called Helena in our own royal house.

The name of the wife of Aaron was Elischeba, meaning "God hath sworn," and in the Latin form of this name we find it again in Bible history borne by Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; and from this, through the Muscovites, we trace it onwards till, Elizabeth of Hainault married Philippe Auguste, when the French manipulated it into Isabelle, to make it into something more like the sound of French.

The next person in whom we are interested who bore it was Isabel d'Angoulême, the wife of King John. This was its first introduction into England, where, in our history, it has anything but a good savour; but in Arragon (Spain) the name is highly esteemed, and was redeemed by the great-niece and namesake of Elizabeth of Hungary, the saint and queen. Her great-niece, married to the King of Arragon, was called "Isabel de la Paz," so gentle and sweet was her disposition; and she also was made a saint. Ysabel, as it is spelt in Spain, may be called the royal female name of the Peninsula, for as it not invested with glory by "Isabella the Catholic," and has it not been borne many times since by queens of Spain? In England we have had no more since "the Little Queen" of Richard II. was called by it; and so its royal existence in England ends with the sorrowful figures of a deposed king, and a child-queen who never reigned.

But I must not proceed just yet to the consideration of Elizabeth, for we have several names of queens which must be noticed before we come to the Edwards of our history. Three Greek names come into our English royal pedigree in the days of Edgar Atheling, 1057 A.D.: Agatha, Margaret, and Christian, and from these days in Scotland we date also Euphemia, Alexander, and George, it is said. Margaret may be called a saintly name, both in its origin and its associations. It is unquestionably derived, in the first instance, from the Persian word for "a pearl," adopted by the Greeks; and with it is mingled the thought of "the pearl of great price," and "the gates of pearl," and the early holders of the name were fair, sweet saints; in Antioch first, and then in Hungary, in Scotland and Norway. Our first queen of the name was Margaret "of France," grand-daughter of St. Louis; and our second was Margaret "of Anjou," the sadly unfortunate queen of Henry VI., Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII., and the cruelly-treated Margaret Countess of Salisbury, with Margaret Tudor also, who married James IV. of Scotland—were the last of the Margarets in the royal pedigree; but it has ever remained a popular and a dearly-beloved name in England, and is the most revered of the Scottish names, with its early memories of the good Queen of Malcolm III.

The name of Philippa, which makes its appearance in history with Edward III., and marks the advent of "Philippa of Hannott" as our queen, does not seem to have settled here; for though adopted during her life, and bestowed on her son's daughter, who married the Earl of March, we rarely find it at the present day. The only Philippa I have ever known was a German servant who came

from Bremen. This may, I think, be called the first appearance of masculine names turned into feminine ones; and to this subject I shall return later on. Blanche may be cited as the next new arrival in England. This name came from Queen Blanche of Castile, and was bestowed on her grand-daughter Blanche; one of the daughters of Edward I. bore it, and as her mother was Eleanor of Castile, the great-grand-daughter of Queen Blanche, its source is evident. The first wife of John of Gaunt was Blanche, daughter of the Duke of Lancaster, and this is, I think, its last appearance in the royal pedigree, though it has ever since remained a fashionable English name.

From the return of the Crusaders we may date the arrival of one of the best known and popular of our names, the only thing to be regretted about it being, that it is sometimes spelt with a "C" instead of a "K," the latter appearing to be the right way, if we may take its Greek original as an authority. The name Katherine dates from a Christian martyr of Alexandria, of the seventh century, and we first find it borne by Katherine Countess of Salisbury, the belle and "toast" of the Court of the first Edward, and the lady who is fabled to have worn, and lost the "garter." The second wife of John "of Gaunt," as well as his daughter, the Queen of Castile, bore the name. The latter set the fashion in Spain, and at a later date we find Katherine "of Arragon" called by it, but not before we had had a queen of that name in the person of Katherine "of France," the wife of Henry V., and the wife also of Owen Tudor, the founder of the race of that name. To-day we have no more fashionable name than Katherine, and Kate, and Kitty, with the beautiful Irish Kathleen.

Anne or Anna is the Grecianised version of Hannah, as we find it in the New Testament. Anna the prophetess, said to be the mother of the Blessed Virgin, by tradition was a favourite saint with the Greek church, and the name came into England about the beginning of the sixteenth century, when we find Anne Mortimer, the ancestress of the House of York, and later on it descended to poor Anne Boleyn, and we have had no less than five queens of the name, if we include Anne Hyde, the wife of James II. In the form of Ann it seems simply horrid, and as Annie it looks weak in print. Anna seems too like Hannah, its original, and Anne seems the best and nicest version.

Jane seems to be the unfortunate name of history. It comes evidently from Joanna, the Scripture name, but in the English royal line we find it first under the spelling of Joan, and it began in Spain in the twelfth century, and we find many of the name, beginning with Joan, the daughter of Henry II., and Joan the daughter of the second Edward, both of whom were very well known in their day.

A Joan never sat on the throne of England, though she was so near it; but Jane (probably derived from the French method of writing the name), came to the throne twice, first as Jane Seymour, and secondly as Jane Grey—the young queen of a few days.

Mary, or Marie as it was at first spelt, begins the list of our four queens of that name; but it seems to have been common in England in Henry III.'s reign, and remains as popular to-day, both as its most simple form, Mary, and its many expansions and contractions of Marion, Marian, Maria, May, and Molly; and the Scotch Menie.

With the House of Hanover we fall on the days of affected names; and we lose the



simplicity and elegance of the English names to which we are now, I am glad to say, returning in some measure, Caroline, Charlotte, Frederica, Augusta, Louisa, Wilhelmina, and Thomasina, are all the feminines of masculine names, of which we had already seen some dreadful specimens in Roberta, Robina, Jacquetta, Ruperta, Regina, Alberta, Paula, and Paulina. It is said that this whole class of names was introduced by the use of the "Fair Geraldine" in the poems of Surrey—the lady in question being Elizabeth Fitzgerald.

Another class of names seems also passing out of fashion, and that is double names; such as Mary-Anne turned into Marianne, Mary-Jane, Sarah-Anne, Lucianne, or Sarah-Jane, and Anna-Maria; this latter and Mary-Anne have probably a religious origin, adopted in order to commemorate the names of the Virgin and her mother. The idea came originally from Italy; a god-child of Queen Anne was named by her—Georgia-Anna, after herself and her husband.

While on the subject of double names, I may give an extract from the *Globe*, a correspondent supplying the information. "Perhaps it may interest the registrar of Bromley by Bow district to hear that the name of Roseanne as one word is not new, but is possessed of a very respectable antiquity. We hear of Roxana, or, as it is now written, Rosane, as being captured by Alexander of Macedon on his defeat of Darius, the Mede, and he afterwards married her, or rather made her one of his wives. There was another of the same name of the Court of Cambyses, the Persian. He wished his brother, Bartya, to marry her, but he preferred Sappho, the grand-daughter of Rhodopis, the Greek, and was murdered by order of Cambyses, according

to George Ebers, by Prexaspis at Ezion Geber. What is to hinder anybody from calling their child Miriam, Marianne, Marion, or indeed, Mary Ann, although in the last case I am afraid they would have to admit that it should come on the register as two words? There is also a very agreeable piece of music called "Rosane," by Boggetti, which was often played by Cohen the harpist in Change Alley, and which will be familiar to many of your readers."

This fashion of double names was at its height about seventy or eighty years ago, and some time before then there was a detestable fashion of shortening names, and turning Sarah into Sally, Mary into Molly, and Elizabeth into Betty, Betsy and Bess; and children were even christened by them. At about the same time too, or before it, there was a fancy for ending everything with an "a;" thus we had Maria, Olivia, Cecilia, Letitia, and Lucia, and last but not least, we had an outbreak of poetical names, and names copied from Greek or Latin poets. Of these I will only mention Belinda, Clarissa, and Chloe.

One of the curiosities of Christian names may be mentioned as that of giving women's names to boys, and men's names to women. It dates from about 1500, when we find Anne, Queen of France, giving her name to two god-sons, one of whom was the Constable, Anne de Montmorency. After this we find it repeatedly, while the custom of adding Maria to a boy's name dates in Italy to 1300. I find Florence used as a man's name in 1500, while Louis XII. of France called both his daughters by male names, and through the the eldest, the wife of Francis I., we get the name of "the Reiné Claude" plums, which

were named in her honour. The name Claude was in constant use for girls in the United States some years ago.

Amongst those used for both sexes indiscriminately, I find Sydney, which was given in Ireland as a girl's name in honour of Sir Philip Sydney's father, and is a favourite boy's name in England—no doubt after Sir Philip himself. Camden states that the English fashion of giving surnames as Christian names began at the Reformation. It is a fashion peculiarly English, and a source of wonder to foreigners at all times; and a suggestion that they should go and do likewise fills them with amazement.

But to return to other names given to the sexes indiscriminately. We find Shirley, Vivian, Valentine, Rose, Cecil, Evelyn, Julian, Christian, Esmé, Clare, and Vere; also amongst the masculine names given to girls, Averil, Hilary, Ray, Forda, and Allison; Forda being an attempt to make a feminine appellation, which deserves respect.

So far I have tried to show the fashions as exemplified by history, which we still follow to-day, and we have named a few of the curiosities in naming children. My next article will give my collection of odd names or pretty ones, derived from my daily readings, or from books, history, or stories. A pretty name is an excellent heritage, and the Americans very often leave to their children the privilege of naming themselves; only calling them by some pet name till they be old enough to choose one. I do not know whether they have a system of registration there; but we could not follow their example, on that account alone.

(To be concluded.)

## "CAUGHT A BIT OF A CHILL, PERHAPS."

By "MEDICUS."



AM going to tell you a story. No, not a very long one by any means, for my space is limited and valuable. You won't see the drift of my story at first, but you will before you have read all this article, and you will then know that it is illustrative of a fact in physiology which I wish you to remember. Yes, I am willing enough to admit that physiology is a dry study, that is my reason for troubling you so seldom with it. But some truths connected with this science, if remembered, may be the means of saving life or preventing severe illness, and so I need make no apology for bringing these to your notice.

But to our tale: One day in the end of a blustering March, my ship—the good old *Xanthus*, was lying some miles off the great ice-pack, to the north and eastward of the lonely Isle of Jan Mayen. It was my second cruise in Arctic waters, so I need not say that I was a fairly good sailor.

It was as cold a day as ever I remember, and although the wind hardly reached half a gale in force, it was cutting and cruelly keen. The bows of our barque were laden with tons of ice; the rigging was a mass of crystal ropes, the decks were slippery, and the green seas "sang in the frosty air as they went curling under our quarter."

I was manfully trudging up and down the quarter-deck in a vain attempt to keep up the

animal heat, the men forward dancing, jumping, and beating their doubly-gloved hands together, with the same object.

Our sails were close-reefed, and a cold job it had been for the men in the rigging; but they had received strict orders to keep on their mittens, so they all got to deck without a single frost-bite.

"Below there!"

That was a shout from the crow's-nest.

The mate and I looked skywards, and listened.

"There is a Danish brig well down to leeward yonder, flying a flag of distress. I think she wants to speak."

"Keep her away," said the mate motioning with his hand to the man at the wheel.

Our course was altered a few points, and in about half an hour we were near enough to the Dane to lower a boat. The captain and I both got over the side, and away we went. Every man in that boat was an athlete, else surely with such a sea on we could never have reached the Dane, or clambered up her icy sides.

It was assistance from me that was wanted, for there was no surgeon belonging to the brig. Many men were down with coughs and colds and bronchitis. But the most terrible case was one of frost-biting of the left hand. I saw at once that I could not save life. It was too late, and mortification had set in. The poor fellow's pulse was thready and quivering, and his very eyes were glazing. Had I seen him the day before I would have operated, and taken the arm off. As it was, all I could do was to remain by him and

soothe his dying hours, the steward doing all he could to assist me. This man could talk English, and from him I got the history of the case, and it is to this I want to draw your attention. The man had been reefing a top-sail and had taken off his gloves. The right hand being kept more in motion than the left had escaped, but the left was frozen as hard as a board. Now the captain had recognised the danger, for if he could not induce reaction, and bring the blood back to the frozen hand, it would drop off. The great mistake he made lay in getting alarmed, and applying too strong stimulants, which induced so fearful a reaction, that the hand swelled to four times the usual size, and mortification was the result, with death to follow.

You will presently recognise the bearing this poor sailor's case has on the subject I have to deal with, namely, that of chill.

"Caught a bit of a chill, perhaps."

How often we hear this remark about this time of the year. It is generally made to the patient herself, in a light, off-hand kind of way when she first complains of being out of sorts.

"Only a bit of chill—soon get over that—everybody liable to that sort of thing—sat in a draught, perhaps—keep in the house for a day and nurse yourself—take a hot drink and go to bed—a dish of hot gruel—finest thing in the world for a chill—a glass of port wine in it—"

And so on and so forth. But it is generally a male person who gives advice like this, and if a doctor heard him, he would feel inclined to point to the door, and beg him to leave.



## FASHIONS IN GIRLS' CHRISTIAN NAMES.

By DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.

## PART II.

ONE of the early examples of giving surnames as Christian names, it will be remembered, is that of Lord Guilford Dudley, the young husband of Lady Jane Grey; and to-day this is one of the most fashionable eccentricities, if indeed it should be so called, when it very often arises from a desire to perpetuate the wife's or the mother's name. In Switzerland this is done by adding the wife's name to the husband's. You may remember an instance of this in reference to the famous author of the *History of the Reformation*, Merle d'Aubigné, who is always called by his wife's name, d'Aubigné, instead of his own surname, Merle. This last name reminds me that it has been taken lately into favour as a Christian name in England, but I do not know the origin of the idea, unless it be that Merle is taken from the French word for blackbird.

With regard to out-of-the-way names, the newspapers sometimes give one very funny information. The following is an example of American origin:—

"Governor Hogg, of Texas, who is visiting New York, is a man with a large sense of humour. He has two daughters; one of them he named Ima Hogg and the other Ura Hogg. He wanted to name his son Bea Hogg, but his wife put a stop to that."

This seems to verge on cruelty to children, but no doubt the young ladies will endeavour to change the paternal name early, and so get rid of the disagreeable associations.

Popular events are often marked by being used as children's names. "Alma" has in this way become a fixture in the language, and further immortalised the victory, and I have known two people called "Almeria," the name of the province and town in Andalusia, where a battle was fought in the Peninsular War; one of the bearers of the name being so called because her eldest brother was killed there on the day of her birth. "Alta," "Ionia," and "Almeda," are also instances of place-names; "Oceana," "Melita," "Indiana," "Adria" and "Roma," are all names given from the circumstances of birth, and I have met one lady called "Carla," because she was born during a sojourn at Carlisle. In this connection, Miss Yonge says, a child was once called "Happen-to-be," because its parents happened to be in Canada at the time of its birth.

The fancy for Greek names has largely evaporated with years. It was probably originated by the French Revolution, and the revival of Republicanism which took place then, in which everything ancient was copied. Very long ago I knew three brothers of middle age, who were respectively called "Hercules," "Leonidas," and "Themistocles." Their father had been "Alcibiades." I have also been fortunate enough to know a pair of twins called "Tryphena" and "Tryphosa," and really I think there ought to be some way of punishing parents for giving such names to their unhappy children. I see in a recent notice in one of the papers that the name of "Aladas" has been bestowed on a child, the registrar refusing to call it "Ladas," that being, as he said, a man's name. The father and mother promptly added an A, and the name was received as correct.

The name of our present Majesty has not been a popular one amongst her subjects, although amongst the nobility it often appears, as the Queen has many godchildren, but it is not a name for every-day use, like our historic Elizabeth or Margaret. Albert and Alexandra have shared the same fate, but there has been a revival in Edward, and

Beatrice is popular, as well as May or Mary, which indeed always holds its own in England and elsewhere. Maud, I am told, ranks amongst the most popular of names, and with it may be classed Ethel, Florence, Gladys, and Muriel. The popularity of Ethel began when Thackeray wrote *The Newcomes*, where the heroine is Ethel. Gladys means "lame," and is the Welsh form of Claudia, the Cornish Gladuse; and no doubt exists that it commemorates the British "Claudia," that sends her greetings to Timothy, whose husband, Pudens, is mentioned in the Colchester inscriptions. I have already said that Claude is used as a male and female name both in France and America. Muriel is a very old English name, and has another version—Meriel, and both come from the Greek, "myrrh." This last name I have twice met with as an English family name, Myrrha. It was the name of the Ionian slave, who remained faithful to King Sardanapalus, and shared his funeral pyre.

Angel has been introduced lately to us as a man's name, but it was formerly popular in England, and with it may be mentioned Avice, Olive, Clemency, Loveday, Eunice, Hermione, Ursula, and Zaïdee, which I have lately gathered in the columns of what the American papers call "the Cradle, the Altar, and the Tomb." All of them pretty and pleasant as names, and some with an old-world savour, which makes them like the scent of dried rose-leaves.

Of the same class are Lettice, Marjorie, Dorothy, and Audrey; while Christian, Honor, Patience, Faith, Grace, and Hope are of the serious class, but all have been found in very recent literature, and at least two of the first may be called fashionable as well as pretty.

Barbara is another delightful name, and so is Phyllis. Zoë is not so fashionable as it was a few years ago, but we have Yolande, Gwendoline, Hilda, and Irene, all with a certain amount of popular favour. Valentine belongs to both boys and girls apparently, but it, with many of Shakespeare's heroines, has been lately adopted; and I have found Imogen, Cornelia, Sylvia, and Hermia, as well as Hermione in print, as belonging to living people within the last few months.

Ismay, Esmé, and Isolde, I see often. Of the first I do not know the origin, unless it has some relation to a name borne by a celebrated engineer, Isambard, which means iron bright. Esmé, I suppose, must be the first part of the Spanish name Esmeralda, which means an emerald, and recalls one of the visions of St. John, but I cannot find the name in any book, though I have an idea that I have once seen it as a boy's name. Isolde seems to me rather fanciful. It is from a Celtic word, meaning fair; Ermine is another name, which is probably Welsh, and means "lordly." Estrith, or as it was spelt, Astrith, I find in a No. 4 Scotia paper, and Asenath in a Canadian one. Another very old name has recently appeared in the papers, that is Amylis, beloved, the name of the queen for whom her husband, Nebuchadnezzar, built the famous hanging-gardens of Babylon, because she came from a mountainous land, and felt home-sick and sad in the vast plains of Chaldea, without a mountain in sight.

Amongst the names from jewels I have lately gathered, I find Beryl, Pearl, Ruby, Amethyst, Amber, Chrystal, or Crystal, and of course the special pearl-name of Margaret, as well as Pearl.

In the way of very peculiar names I find a note of Weata, Wouta, Greta, Ita, and Tosia.

All these are from American papers; so are Delia, Arla, Ina, Vera, Vida, Fina, and Vava. Now Weata is, I should have imagined, a child's version, though I am told it is a Finnish name in reality, and means peace. Wouta, I find, is mentioned in two books, but it is written Wouter, and is a man's name, as it means a powerful warrior. Greta is found in several languages and shapes, the Swiss being Gretti, the Dutch Gretje, all of them meaning pearl, and, I should think, a contraction of Margaret. Ita is a real name also, and means in the Erse language thirsty. Tosia is probably from Toso, a Slavonic name for a man, meaning divine gift. Delia is not improbably a contraction of Cordelia, though there is a name Delia of English ancestry. Of Arla I can find no explanation, though there is a Dutch name Arne. Ina may be a contraction of the Spanish Inez. Vera is a Slav name, and means faith. Vida is a little-known English name, which is from the Hebrew, and means beloved. There is also a Hungarian Vida, which means life. Vava is, I am told, a contraction of Verena, a word which we have in a well-known tale as the name of the heroine. Fina is the last half of Josephine, and may be called a name made from that word.

A new way of spelling Isabel seems to have recently come in Isabel, and in the United States I find Ashbell as a man's Christian name. The old Scotch form of Isabel seems to have been Isbell, and both are most likely eccentric modifications of this ancient name.

Tamsin and Marcella, Olga, Dagmar, and Gweneth, have all been heroines of recent literature, and, judging from appearances, we are going to see a revival of the short forms of longer names, which were in vogue two centuries ago, for Molly, Dolly, Betty, and Nancy are all here with us, and very likely have come to stay.

There are some names that will, I hope, remain extinguished, such as Jemima, Tabitha, Abigail, Deborah, Millicent, Kezia, Hester, and some others; but there are many that would be worth restoring to daily use. We could not have too many of Grace, Enid, Irene, Zoë, Clara or Claire, Lucia, Agatha, Cynthia, Amabel, Hilda, Dulce, Delicia, Avis, or Avice, Teresa, and the beautiful Katharine, Winifred, or any of the early girls' names in history.

Julia, one of the imperial names left us by the ancient Romans, has always been popular in England, as Julian, Julyan, Gillian, or Juliet; and I find the latter has been lately revived as a girl's name. Julia was ever the favourite name of the emperors' daughters; Claudia, Caecilia, Antonia, Cornelia, Flavia, Fulvia, Portia, Valeria, and Virginia we owe to those ancient days of Roman glory.

And, lastly, I shall give you the names derived from flowers and shrubs, some of which are beautiful, and all of which are more or less used to-day. Violet, Lily, Lilies or Lilian, Ivy, Hyacinth, Olive, or Olivia, Rose, or Rosamond. The latter always continues a popular name in England, and is said to be derived not from the rose but from a horse, or horse-protector. Rosalind is Shakespearean, who also gives us Rosaline and Viola. In France Violante was made into Yolande, or Yolette. Veronica is another flower-name, and so are Daisy, Pansy, Eucharis, Myrta, or Myrtle, Marygold, and Rosemary, a name given quite lately to a peer's daughter.

And now, with my acknowledgments and thanks to the various authorities I have dipped into, my sketch of the fashions in girls' names must come to an end.