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NZU24

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HERE ARE NAMES! Half-An-Hour With A Directory

(Written for "The Listener" by J. HALKET MILLAR)

NAMES, names, names! Over the air in the last few months have come more strange names than New Zealand people ever heard of before war broke out. Then there have been the names of men who have enlisted, and hearing and seeing all these caused me to ponder on the strange groupings that are sometimes encountered.

For instance, Begg, Borrow, and Steele; Thom, Dick and Harrie. Have you ever taken time to group names like that? It takes time, a lot of time, but it has endless possibilities.

I went to the Canterbury Directory for samples, and found a remarkably entertaining selection. I found the name Carr, and this led me on to Buick, Morris (and Cowley), Ford, Dennis, Austin, Bean, Crossley, Armstrong, Packard, Gray, Arrol (and Johnson), Willis (and Knight), Nash, Dodge, and Paige. Then there are Cropper and Spiller, while people in the country will appreciate Rock and Salt.

You see how interesting it can be? Research revealed that there is a Mr. Barber who is a butcher, a Mr. Butcher who is a carpenter, a Mr. Carpenter who is a draper, a Mr. Draper who is a farmer, and a Mr. Farmer who is a baker. Perhaps it goes on like that; I don't know, I gave it up.

A Biblical Group

The name Abraham asked for a Biblical group. It was there: Abraham, Moses, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Isaac, Absalom, Lott. There was also a family association in Eden, Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel.

The colours are represented by Green, Gray, Black, Brown, White and Blue, and there are Redman and Whiteman. There are many names ending in "man" — Newman, Goodman, Truman, Pairman, Blackman, Longman, Leaman, Jackman, Workman, Wiseman and Twentyman.

Where did the name Glue come from? And where Miles and Inch? Before we go on to other groups, we pause at Sweetapple, Greygoose, Newlove, Fairweather, Curtain.

The Emotions

And the emotions! Sadd, Moody, Grieve, Revell, Merry, Bright, Gay, Joy, Jollie, Wild, Eager, Fear, and there is one who is Blank. We find Kidd, Butt, and Bunt.

The name Edge takes us to Blunt, Keen, and Sharpe, and there is an animal group comprising Bull, Bullock, Cow, Steere, Steeds, Suckling, Stock, and Bear with Stables as well. The out-of-doors has its representatives in Meadows, Dell, Lea, Vale, Glenn and Parkes. There is a Field, and it does not take long to find Stack, Straw, and Hay.

There are Lamb, Veale, Hind, Herd, and Hyde. Sweet and Vial, Close and

Farr make the reader wonder more than ever and he passes on to the military group: Canon, Ball, Gunn, Cotton, Shott, Sergeant, Major.

The Meteorological Section

An amusing one is given by Diggs, Hutt, Cribb, Bach, House, Tennant, and Rent. Winter and Summers give room for thought, especially the first one, as it makes us look for something to go with it. Here they are: Cole, Wood, and Peate. The meteorological section supplies us with Hoare, Frost, Clement, Dewe, Rain, Ray, Rainey, Blizzard, Hale, Snow, Gale, Coole, and Rainbow. Perhaps allied to these are North, South, East, and West.

One's geographical knowledge is aided by knowing that Methven, Glasgow, Sheffield, Wales, Ireland, England, Brittan, France, Holland, Brazil, York, Winchester, Staveley, Eskdale, Denver, Napier and Wellington are all in Canterbury, though the school books don't say so.

Birds And Money

It takes a long time to sort out the bird group, which is: Raven, Finch, Gosling, Robins, Crow, Chick, Bird, Drake, Pidgeon, Eagles, Herron, Nightingale, Hawks, Sparrow, Parrott, Partridge, and Peacock. Everyone is interested in money, and there is any amount of it in Canterbury: Farthing, Guiney, Money, Penny, Brownie, Price, Pound, Purchase, Purse, Sterling, Silver, Gold, Dollar; and Golden might be added, together with Coppersmith and Goldsmith.

Three more groups should suffice, but there are many others to be found:

Mann, Eyes, Hart, Head, Legg, Boys, Pain, Back, Trunk, Ricketts, Hands, Brain, Joynt, Whisker.

Love, Hope, Faith, Grace, Virtue, Noble.

Short, Long, Little, Bigg, Biggar, Thin, Small, Tiney, Large and Petty.

THIS OPERA CREATED A RIOT

Stormy Passage Of "A Masked Ball,"

ORDINARILY, you would not think that an opera could create a riot, but there is at least one which did—Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera" ("The Masked Ball"), which, in abridged form, will be presented at 9.15 p.m. on Sunday, August 4, from 3YA Christchurch.

The opera was at first called "Gustave III.", the story being based on the historical fact of the assassination of King Gustave III. of Sweden at a masked ball in Stockholm in 1792. As far back as 1830, Auber composed an opera on the same story.

Verdi's "Gustave III" was scheduled to be produced for the first time at the San Carlo Theatre in Naples, in 1858, during the Carnival. But hardly had rehearsals been started when Orsini made his attempt on the life of Napoleon III. Europe was almost as nervy in those days as it is to-day, and the authorities immediately forbade the production of an opera dealing with the assassination of a sovereign. The composer was peremptorily told to put different words to his music, and he as curtly refused; whereupon the manager filed a suit against him, demanding a large sum as damages.

What both the authorities and the manager had forgotten, however, was the immense popularity of the composer with his countrymen, and the temper of the people.

Here indeed was a golden opportunity for a demonstration, and soon crowds gathered in the streets of Naples shouting "Viva Verdi" (Long Live Verdi). But the words "Viva V.E.R.D.I." had a political significance. They also meant "Viva Vittorio Emmanuele Re Di Italia" (Long Live Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy).

When the trouble had blown over, the authorities renewed their request for a change, and Verdi consented to the setting and plot being transferred to Boston, Massachusetts, in the 18th Century. It was deemed a matter of little moment to have an Englishman murdered in far-off America, although actually



Our artist illustrates a scene from "Un Ballo in Maschera," the opera which started a riot

the story became an anachronism, since masked balls were unknown at that stage of New England's history. To give a touch of local colour, the character of "Ulrica," the sorceress, was transformed into an Indian Squaw, and "Samuel" became an American coloured gentleman! Whether the plot fitted into a Puritanical Boston setting did not worry the Italians, however, when the revised opera was finally produced at the Teatro Apollo in Rome.