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II.—THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD.

449 to 1066 A.D.

LEADING FEATURES:—Britain becomes England—The English become Christian—The Danes struggle with the English—French influence prepares England for the Norman Conquest.

1.—FROM THE ENGLISH SETTLEMENT TO EGBERT.

1. Not long after the departure of the Romans, the Picts and Scots again invaded South Britain. The Britons, it is said, being unable to resist them, called in the aid of certain Teutonic¹ tribes which had been in the habit of plundering their coasts. The Teutons gladly came; and they liked the country so much that they were loath to go away again. 449
A.D.

So they wrested from the Britons (or Welsh, as they called them), whom they had come to help, land on which they and their families might settle. These Teutonic settlers were the founders of the English nation.

By-and-by there came other tribes of the same race, who settled on different parts of the coast. In the end, they founded as many as eight distinct states in Britain—or England, as it came to be called—and drove the Welsh into the high-lands in the north and west of the country. 582
A.D.

2. The names of some of these states (as Essex, Sussex, Wessex) show that they were founded by Saxons. Others (as East Anglia and Northumbria) were founded by people called Angles. As the earliest settlers were Saxons, the Welsh naturally gave that name to all the invaders.

But the Angles got most of the land, and became the most powerful. So, when the two peoples (who spoke the same language, and were as closely related as brothers) grew into one, they were called Anglo-Saxons (that is, Angles and Saxons), or more commonly Angles, or English alone. Saxons as well as Angles called their speech English—never Saxon, or Anglo-Saxon, as is often done now; and the general

¹ *Teutonic*.—The name for the whole Stock of nations inhabiting the North of Europe. It consists of two branches—the Scandinavian or Norse, and the Gothic. To the former belong Icelanders, Danes, Swedes, and Norwegians; to the latter, the English, the Germans, the Flemish, and the Dutch.