

others, have probed the matter scattered through the nine hundred or more languages of this "babbling earth." Investigation discovered similarities. Languages grouped themselves into orders, families, dialects. Organic unity was seen, and with this discovery began linguistic science. Changes could be traced to definite periods of time, and to definite causes. Growth was ascertained. A regular process of development was perceived, and yet various stages of this development existed contemporaneously. Here, language seemed to be in its Azoic time; there, in its Silurian period. Here, disintegration of what seemed its primitive rocks had set in; there, the rocks were being combined into new and interesting forms. Mysteries and misconceptions were cleared up. The two grand features which constitute language, expressions for ideas, and methods for showing their relations, were realized; and the discovery aided in exploding cherished, and almost sacred, theories. Hebrew was no longer regarded as the primitive form of human speech, after Leibnitz had suggested the true method of investigation. Similarity of sound gave place to etymology, as a test of connection between words, and to grammatical construction, as a test of the relationship of languages. Thus, the English language contains 13,330 Saxon words to 29,354 of Latin origin; but the construction being Saxon, English cannot be classed amongst the Romance languages. Forms, too, strangely dissimilar, were found to be most closely related; as the French *larme* and the English *tear*. *Tear* from the Gothic *tagr*, old Latin *dacrima*, Latin *lacrima*, French *larme*. A new source of pleasure was opened up, inferior to none of those other sciences which had hitherto engrossed attention; and the beautiful interlacing of mental tendency with material circumstances opened up a glorious avenue of thought in reference to the history and destinies of him who combines in himself the mental and the material.

Take a modern analytic language, such as French. Examine the various methods of spelling words during the different periods of its history. Continue your investigations through the Latin, and you will obtain a good idea of the stages of progress through which languages pass. Even a cursory examination of so late a writer as *Villehardouin* (1160-1213) will reveal the existence of a system of declension in old French, such as does not now obtain. Words now invariable, as *Empereur*, are spelled with a final *s* or *z*, when used as subjects in the singular, and as objects in the plural, but without *s*, when used as objects in the singular, and as subjects in the plural; thus:—