

after certain letters as a general verbal ending. A tendency to bring in French words to supply deficiencies in the reduced English vocabulary begins to show itself.

3. *The Period of Full Development.*—The most marked feature of this period, into which great changes are crowded, was an enormous influx of words taken from the French. Many of these importations, brought in to meet a temporary necessity, did not take permanent root in our language. Still, enough remain to form a very important element of Modern English, and to make our language particularly rich in such synonyms, as, *answer, respond; hinder, prevent; brave, valiant*, &c. This extensive introduction of French words did not result from accident, nor from the special tastes of particular authors. We have seen that the language had been denuded by an irresistible process of many of the terms tending to fit it for a literary medium. But it no longer lay under a ban. The Teutonic element of the nation had triumphantly asserted its ascendancy. The nobility and gentry had at length recognized and accepted English as the national tongue. What could be more natural than that these cultivated classes, among which literature would chiefly circulate, should seek to supply from familiar sources the deficiencies of their newly acquired language? Nor was the introduction of French words confined to the language of *literature*. In the changed life of this new era, social barriers which had stood for ages were broken down; there was a freer intercourse among the various grades of society, and the language of the common people became enriched with many terms which the ruling classes imported from the tongue which they had so long spoken. But this process of incorporation must not be misunderstood. The French words, most of them really of Latin origin, which became a permanent part of our language, did