

could be used as either Active or Passive and taking them to be passive forms, used to supply the place of reflexive active ones, they arrange them with the forms peculiar to the Reflexives in a voice which they termed Middle, meaning to imply *active meaning, passive form*. Hence the name and its meaning. In Latin except in the case of *fo* and perhaps one or two others, there was no formal Passive, the Reflexive wholly taking its place in the simple tenses and auxiliary forms in the perfect. Many verbs, however, kept their old active force, some keeping to the reflexive, hence arose the Deponent verbs which appeared to the Romans to be active in meaning, but passive in form. The Teutonic Branch of the Aryan Languages does not seem to have preserved any trace of a formal Passive, using either the Reflexive Voice or a passive participle, predicated by a symbolic verb, (predicate passive). The Moeso-Gothic Passive was in fact of Reflexive form, and that the Scandinavian Passives sprang from Reflexives, is as plain in the Old Norse as is the origin of the French verbs in "se." Thus it is found that in most of the Aryan Languages the Passive form has been lost, the Reflexive supplying its place and taking the name Passive, when the verb has the passive meaning and Middle when the verb has the active meaning.

English has not developed either a formal Reflexive or a formal Passive voice, but has had recourse to auxiliaries. In Classic English the so-called Passive Voice, is an adjective form (predicative) nor is there any true Middle Voice, the Reflexive retaining except in special cases its active meaning, and to set up these special cases into a separate voice would be as great a mistake as to set up a "Second Active" in "sk," because bask and busk are from Norse reflexives, which have in English become Active transitives. In Colloquial and Provincial

English, however, the case is altogether different. While retaining the adjective forms with the symbolic verbs "to be," spoken English has developed from the Causative Reflexives, a second Passive or rather a true Middle with "get" as its symbol verb; thus Active, "He caught"; Passive, "He was caught"; Simple Reflexive, "He caught himself"; Causative Reflexive, "He got himself caught"; Middle, "He got caught." It is quite within the bounds of possibility that this Middle may some day displace from English the Passive at present in use. Most of our auxiliaries have gone through stranger changes than the passage of "get" into a symbolic verb; e.g., "shall" was originally a past tense of "quell" to kill. In the broken English of the natives of Western Australia, "to get down," is said wholly to have displaced "to be," as verb substantive, and from Canadian literature we have this specimen of verbs which have dropped their presentive force. "He asked her how she came to go to sleep there." *Canadian Monthly*, "For King and Country."

PROBLEMS AND QUERIES.

58. Three uniform beams, AB, BC, CD, jointed at B and C, are supported in a straight horizontal line by two pillars M and N. How is this possible?
JOHN DEARNESS, Strathroy.

59. Sangster charges brokerage on the money value of stock, McMurchy on the par value; which is the practice of brokers?

A. DICKINSON.

60. Why does the day begin to gain in the evening in the beginning of December, but not in the morning till the beginning of January?

WM. McDONALD.

61. What is the meaning and etymology of *to* in "All to-break."—Judges, IX. 53.

EDITOR.

62. What were the sentences from which "Good morning," "Good night," &c., were shortened.

Do.

EDITOR'S DRAWER.

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