

Italian, Spanish and Portuguese are merely the modern representatives of Latin as it was spoken in various parts of the Roman empire (whence they are known as the *Romance* languages). Moreover all through the middle ages and down to quite modern times, Latin was the language of learning and diplomacy; an educated man in any part of Europe knew Latin as well as his own language, and both wrote and spoke it freely. Partly for this latter reason, and partly because of England's close relations with France from the time of the Norman Conquest, the English language also has been profoundly influenced by Latin.* Countless words, originally Latin, have been introduced from French, especially during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; and innumerable words also have been taken directly from Latin during the whole period from the time of the Roman occupation of Britain to the present day, but particularly since 1500 A.D. It has been estimated that fully forty per cent. of our English vocabulary has thus come, directly or indirectly, from Latin.

THE ALPHABET.

5. The Latin alphabet is the same as the English, except that **W** is never used. **K** occurs in but a few words and always as an initial letter; even here it is replaced by **C** in many books; as **Karthāgō** or **Carthāgō**, *Carthage*.

* English belongs to a different group of languages from Latin and French, and is more akin to Dutch, German, Danish and Norse. This group of languages is called *Tentonic*, and the *Tentonic* and Latin groups seem to have descended from some still earlier common language. Hence there are resemblances between English and Latin words, even where it is certain that the English word has not come even indirectly from Latin; as e.g. *mother* and *mater*, *two* and *duo*. Such related words are called *cognates*; words which have come to us from Latin are called *derivatives*.