

# PRIMER OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

#### Relation of English to other Languages.

§ 1. EVERY language has a history of its own, and it may be made to tell us its own *life*, so to speak, if we set the right way to work about it.

There are *two* ways of getting at this history. The first mode is by *comparing* one language with others that are well known to us. The second is by studying the literature of a language in order of time, or chronologically, beginning with the very oldest written books, and coming down to the latest and newest.

The first or *comparative* method is one that you have no doubt tried yourselves upon a small scale, when you have noticed how closely our word *house* resembles the German *haus*, or English *thou hast* the German *du hast*. You may have asked yourselves, too, whether this *likeness* in words and in grammar proves that one of the languages is borrowed from the