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A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

LANGUAGES KINDRED TO THE ENGLISH.

Anglo-Saxon, Teutonic, Indo-European.—The English language is the descendant and representative of the Anglo-Saxon. It has lost very much of the inflection, and very many of the words, which belonged to the parent language; and, on the other hand, it has borrowed words very largely, to the extent even of half its vocabulary, from other languages, especially the French and the Latin. Yet all the inflections that remain in it, and most of its formative endings, the pronouns and particles, and, in general, the words which are in most frequent and familiar use, have come to it from the Anglo-Saxon. With all its mixture of foreign elements, it is still a Teutonic language, like the German, Dutch, Swedish, Danish, and others. These again make one branch in that great family of languages, which, as it extends from India westward, and covers nearly the entire area of Europe, is called Indo-European. Among all families of kindred tongues, the Indo-European is pre-eminent, both for the perfection of its organic structure, and for the value of its literary monuments. The parent of the whole family, the one primitive Indo-European language, has left no such monument of itself; but its forms and roots may be made out, to a great extent, by the scientific comparison of the languages which are descended from it.