

nempnen: *theos meiden* . . . *wes iuliane inempnet*, *Jul.*, 4; *theoehinus inempnet*, *St. Marh.*, 1. Seth he let his name *nempne*, *Holy Rode* (Ashm.), 29. Similarly AS. *samnian* appears not only as *samun(i)en*, but also *sampnen*: *sompnin*, *Marh.*, 15 (S-B); 'Wold he so sone sampne his host, R. B., *Chron.*, 4978. The abundant instances of *m p n* in similar position in OFr. point to the source of this consonantal group; cf. *dampner* (< *damnare*), *dampne-dee* (< *domine-deus*), *solempne* (< *solemnem*). The character and extent of such influence, then, call for definition. In orthography, while we have the rough outline of the making over of our orthography in conformity with French orthography, and have many interesting details afforded us¹, we are again without full and precise account of the process and its subsequent effects, though the history of words like *corpse* (*e.g.* OFr. *cors* > MidE. *cors*; Fr. *corps* > E. *corpse*) makes one suspect the prevalence of a somewhat extensive influence. The problem of the introduction of French words into MidE. has received most attention; witness the word-lists of Morris², W. W. Skeat, Miss Skeat³, Behrens, and Sturmfels, and, for individual works, of Einenkel⁴, Fritzsche⁵, and others. But, while we have the lists of words, we have no systematic study of the semasiology of those words. Were the fine discriminations of the foreign language preserved? If so, what a testimony to the intimacy of the English speaker with the language drawn upon! If, for example, the MidE. *air* in its various uses and shades of meaning closely corresponds to OFr. *air* in its uses and shades of meaning—which indeed it does—and if this conformity in meaning and use is sustained by a similar correspondence among the loan-words generally, we have a revelation of the subtle and far-reaching interfusion of the French and English spirit in the MidE. period. Again, how far can the French words taken into MidE. be regarded as essential to the expression of new ideas and manners consequent on a new order of civilization⁶? At times they were essential; witness the OFr.

¹ Cf. Skeat, 'Principles of English Etymology,' i. 302 ff.

² 'Historical Outlines of English Accidence,' Append. III.

³ 'Word-list illustrating the correspondence of Mod. Eng. with Anglo-French Vowel Sounds,' *Dialect Soc.*, 1884; *Tr. Phil. Soc.*, Append. IV. 1884 (also W. W. Skeat, *Phil. Soc.*, 1882, 1888-90).

⁴ 'Ueber die Verfasser einiger neuangelsächsischen Schriften,' 48, 49, 93; *Anglia*, v. 91 ff.

⁵ *Anglia*, v. 82.

⁶ Paul, 'Grundriss der germanischen Philologie,' i. 812.