

### I. Vowel Changes.

17. Vowels are in general changed in the direction from the strongest to the weakest, *i.e.* following the vowel scale on page 24, from *a* to *i* on one side, or from *a* to *u* on the other, but sometimes across from *o* to *e*. Thus:—

1. *a* changed to *i*; as, **conficio** from **con** and **facio**.
2. *i* changed to *o*; as, **virginis** and **virgo**.
3. *e* changed to *i*; as, **obsideo**, from **ob** and **sedeo**.
4. *a* changed to *e*; as, **confectum** from **con** and **factum**.
5. *o* changed to *u*; as, **corporis**<sup>5</sup> from **corpus**.

### II. Consonant Changes.

18. A guttural (*c, g, q, or h*) before *s* unites with it, forming *x*; as,—

1. **ducs** = **dux** (gen. **duc-is**).
2. **regs** = **rex** (gen. **reg-is**).
3. **coqusi** = **cocsi** = **coxi**.
4. **vehsi** = **vexi**.

19. *s* between two vowels is generally changed to *r*; as,—

1. **corpōris** from **corpus**.
2. **eram** and **ero** from stem **es-**.

20. *d* and *t* before *s* are dropped or changed to *s*; as,—

1. **pēs** for **peds** (gen. **pēdis**).
2. **possum** for **potsum**.

This change, by which two consonants become *alike*, is called *assimilation* (from **ad**, *to*, and **similis**, *like*, a change that makes a consonant *like* the following consonant). Assimilation is partial when the consonant is adapted to the following letter, but does not become identical with it; as,—

3. **scripsi** = **scripsi**.
4. **regsi** = **recsi** = **rex**.

21. Assimilation is very common in the final consonant of prepositions compounded with other words; as,—

**affēro**, compounded of **ad** and **fēro**.