

carded, etc. Were we to seek the cause of this change, we might find the key to it in the fact that English is a polyglot language. When French was heaped in on the Saxon element, it was found too difficult to pass it through the grammatical machinery, hence the machinery was gradually dispensed with. Again, in plucking words from this and that tongue Englishmen were satisfied if they got the body of the word; terminations, etc., were considered dispensable ornaments.

Underlying this whole process of loss both in words and in grammatical forms we can easily distinguish the natural tendency to the easiest and most expeditious manner of expression. This principle, oftentimes making for gain, is oftener still a source of destruction and decay; and were there not countervailing agencies at work, it would sooner or later bring death to the language.

(To be continued.)

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### EST VIR QUI ADEST.

Friend, though thy soul should burn thee, yet be still ;  
Thoughts were not made for strife, nor tongues for swords ;  
He that sees clear is gentlest of his words,  
And that's not truth that hath the heart to kill.  
The whole world's thought shall not one truth fulfil ;  
Dull in our age, and passionate in youth,  
No mind of man hath found the perfect truth ;  
Nor shalt thou find it ; therefore, friend, be still—  
Watch and be still, nor hearken to the fool,  
The babbler of consistency and rule.  
Wisest is he who, never quite secure,  
Changes his thoughts for better day by day.  
To-morrow some new light will break, be sure ;  
And thou shalt see thy thought another way.

—Anon.