

his position is somewhat vaguely defined: 'The influence of French on *Syntax Proper* has been overrated. English syntax, in the main, is still Germanic, just as English sounds, inflexions, and word-formation are ¹.' This opinion we consider no longer tenable. Einkenel represents a sane recovery from the extreme negative view, which was itself a reaction from the rash generalisations of Thommerel. 'Der Einfluss des Afrz. auf das Mc. zeigt sich mittelbar in einer Beschleunigung des Triebes zur Analyse, unmittelbar in der Nachbildung zahlreicher, oft idiomatisch-romanischer Ausdrucksweisen ².'

2. From the chronology of the changes it is made manifest that there is a law in the time of their appearance. These modifications, due to OFr. influence, show an almost imperceptible trace in the twelfth century, appear to a slight extent in the early years of the thirteenth century, gain slight ground during that century, but only in the first half of the fourteenth century do they manifest themselves in anything like the strength and fullness that characterize Standard English as against Early MidE. In this respect Einkenel's view is corroborated: 'Das 14. Jahrh. ist der Angelpunkt in der Entwicklung der engl. Syntax ³.' Hence:—

3. These changes are in essential respects in effective strength before the time of Chaucer and Wycliffe, who must be regarded as masters and not creators of their language. In this respect Morsbach's view, gained by an examination of the phonology and inflexion of London documents, is upheld: 'Sie (die neueng. Schriftspr.) ist weder von Wyclif noch von Chaucer geschaffen ⁴.'

4. These changes, as respects chronology, are parallel with the growth of the French elements in the vocabulary of MidE., as stated by Morris, Stormfels, and others. 'Die Ausbeute aus den me. Denkmälern des 12. und der ersten Hälfte des 13. Jh. fällt spärlich aus . . . Eine grössere Aufnahme afr. Wörter fand erst in der von Scheibner richtig als Zeit der Gallomanie charakterisierten Periode nach der Mitte des 13. Jh. (von Eduard I. ab) statt ⁵.'

¹ 'Historical Outlines of English Syntax,' p. 308.

² 'Paul's Grundriss der ger. Philologie,' i. p. 907.

³ *Ib.*, p. 930.

⁴ 'Ueber den Ursprung der neuenglischen Schriftsprache,' p. 168.

⁵ Stormfels, 'Afr. Vokalismus im Mittelenglischen,' pp. 9 ff.