

invaded and taken charge of the islands, were pagans ; and in the year 596. Pope Gregory sent Augustine to preach the Gospel to them. " Augustine the monk," says an old historian, " was a tall, slender, lean man in person ; as to his faculties, he was like one of the Pharisees mentioned in the Scriptures, and had a haughty and arrogant appearance." He seems, at all events, to have been a man of great energy of character, and of devotion to his work, and the result of his labors was the speedy and thorough conversion of Britain to the religion of Rome. Augustine was made archbishop of Britain, and Italian monks and priests monopolized the Church. Thus Britain came again under Roman influence, and the sturdy Anglo-Saxon speech of the people became impregnated with words from the Latin ; chiefly, however, terms relating to religion and ecclesiastical affairs.

The Anglo-Saxon rule continued for some six hundred years. For many years [towards the close of their long domination, they had almost constant troubles with the Danes, another tribe of Northmen, who made frequent descents upon the island, and who, finally, under Canute, in 1017, obtained the ascendancy in Britain. The government was held with varying fortunes by the Saxons and the Danes until memorable year 1066, when by the bloody battle of Hastings and the defeat of the gallant Harold, it passed into the hands of William of Normandy, usually called the Conqueror. This was the most important event of modern times ; not only as it affected the fortunes of the little island where it took place, but as it affected civilisation itself, in bringing into existence a new language and a new people, whose influence has been more wide-spread and more deeply marked than any other in the annals of history.

The language of the Normans, now known as the Norman-French, was a mixed dialect, composed of the original Gallic language of the country and the Latin language of the early conquerors. It thus contained a large number of words of Latin origin, though changed and corrupted, as we find them now in the Romance languages. This mongrel speech was now introduced into England, and became the language of the Court and of the upper circles. Every effort was made to foist it upon the people, to the exclusion of the Anglo-Saxon. All the laws were written in the Norman-French ; all judicial proceedings were conducted in that language ; no legal document, no contract, no article of agreement was binding, unless made in the language of the conquerors. Thus a struggle began between the two languages, which continued for nearly two hundred years. The weight of the great mass of the people was on the side of the Anglo-Saxon ; the influence of the dominant class was in favor of the Norman-French. This was a very powerful influence. " The Conqueror and his descendants to the fourth generation," says Macaulay, " were not Englishmen ; most of them were born in France ; they spent the greater part of their lives in France ; their ordinary speech was French ; almost every high office in their gift was filled by a Frenchman ; every acquisition which they made on the Continent estranged them more and more from the population of our island." The struggle was long and obstinate. The natives were held in a degraded condition, and their language was held to degrading uses. We catch a glimpse of the condition of things during that restless period, in Scott's " Ivanhoe."

The history of the English nation as such, and the history of English language properly, date from an event which, as Lord Macaulay remarks, has been generally represented by her historians as disastrous,

but which was really a blessing in disguise. This was the defeat of King John by Philip of France, in the early part of the 13th century, by which England lost Normandy and her other continental possessions. Forced by this circumstance into the narrow limits of their insular dominions, the people of all degrees came to regard England as their home, and themselves as Englishmen. There came about an amalgamation of Saxon and Norman, and a blending together of those languages that had long struggled with each other for the mastery. As two rivers that have long pursued parallel courses, at length unite in one broader and grander stream, so did this final fusion of the peoples and the tongues result in a grander and a nobler tongue than either had alone been before. " Then," says the historian, " was formed that language, less musical, indeed, than the languages of the south, but in force, richness, in aptitude for all the highest purposes of the poet, the philosopher, and the orator, inferior to that of Greece alone." Such was the origin of the English language as we have it to-day ; and to this Norman-French element is due a great part of that Latin infusion which we find in the language.

The Latin element in the English language owes its greatest increase, finally, to the revival of learning. This began a little earlier than the Reformation. " The Reformation," says Dr. Trench, " indeed had a scholarly, we might say a scholastic, as well as a popular aspect. Add this fact to that of the revival interest in classical learning, and you will not wonder that a stream of Latin, now longer than ever, began to flow in our language." This stream has never yet ceased to flow, and the consequence is, as we have seen, that not less than thirty per cent. of our English language is of Latin origin. But this foreign element has had no effect upon the grammatical construction of the language. That remains intact. " Not a single drop of foreign blood," says Max Müller, " has entered into the organic system of the English language. The grammar, the blood and soul of the language, is as pure and unmixed in English as spoken in the British Isles, as it was when spoken on the shores of the German Ocean by the Angles, Saxons and Jutes of the continent." Dr. Trench remarks, " The Anglo-Saxon is not so much one element of the English language, as the basis of it. All the joints, the whole articulation, the sinews and ligaments, the great body of articles, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, numerals, auxiliary verbs, all smaller words which serve to knit together and bind the larger into sentences, these, not to speak of the grammatical structure, are Saxon. The Latin may contribute its tale of bricks, yea, of goodly stones, hewn and polished, to the spiritual building ; but the mortar, with all which binds the different parts of it together, and constitutes them a house, is Saxon throughout."—*Pittsburgh Pa.*

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The Canada Educational Monthly and the Paris Exhibition

We have received the first number of " The Canada Educational Monthly and School Chronicle," edited by G. Mercer Adam, Toronto, and while bidding it welcome to the arena of educational journalism, we very much