

PAPER ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

Fifth Form, at the Christmas Examinations.

ANSWERED BY A. M. MACMECHAN, STUDENT OF THE COLL. INS.

I. (a.) *Enumerate in order the historical sources of our vocabulary.* (b.) *Classify words of Latin and French as to use.*

(a.) The languages from which English is derived are Keltic, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Danish, Norman-French and the modern languages.

(b.) In English there are four classes of words derived from the Latin: 1st, Keltic-Latin, introduced during the Roman occupation of Britain. The words of this class are geographical terms and refer to military affairs or stations. 2nd, Saxon-Latin, so called from its being brought into the country by the missions of the Church of Rome to the Saxons. They are mostly words relating to the rites and doctrines of the Church. 3rd, Norman-Latin, introduced subsequent to the Norman Conquest. These are words used at the Universities and at Courts of Law. 4th, Modern-Latin, that is, Latin introduced since the revival of letters to the present day. These compose the largest class and relate to an infinite variety of subjects. They may be shortly classed as abstract terms.

There are two classes of words introduced from the French: 1st, those brought in at the Conquest. These show that the Normans were the ruling race, also their pursuits and condition in life. Titles of honor, words relating to the chase and to knighthood, and terms of law and refinement are in the main Norman-French words. 2nd, the French words introduced in modern times. These relate chiefly to cooking, fashion, war.

II. (a.) *Estimate the merits of analytic and synthetic methods of expression.* (b.) *Show in what respects the English have adopted or retained each, in Gender, Declension, Conjugation, Comparison and Syntax.* (c.) *Show that they differ only in arrangement.*

(a.) In the analytic method of expression the ideas are arranged in their natural order, that is, in the order in which they are conceived in the mind. In the synthetic, the words representing the ideas are skilfully placed so as to produce the greatest effect upon the mind. The former is the more natural method of expressing our thoughts, the latter the more artistic. The latter often has the advantage of conciseness of expression, the former that of clearness in meaning. A synthetic language is specially suited for poetry and the art of the orator, while an analytic is naturally adapted for the setting forth of mathematical and metaphysical truth.

(b.) In Gender the English has retained from the Anglo-Saxon the synthetic method of denoting the Gender by terminations, the feminine from the masculine, as spins-ter and vix-en, (fox-en). The analytic method of forming the gender prevailed among the Saxons and is retained by us; indeed it is the only one now practicable. We see that it was a common method among the Saxons from the following example: man was the common term for both sexes, then weap-man (the fighting man) was the term to denote the masculine gender, and wif-man