

fancy of the writer which in Early English determined the adverbial use of *al*, *all*, or *alle*. 'The original translation.' Is N. M. sure he is not relying upon a commentator, who himself mistook the force of 'to' and consequently changed 'brake' into 'break?' This was the origin of 'break' in the Scotch Bibles. N. M. is right about the meaning of the original, so also was the commentator. 'Negligence, &c.' Most English scholars nowadays think the printers were right.

In like manner it was formerly the custom to blame the printers for a great many mistakes in Shakespeare and commentators ground their brains in discovering *what Shakespeare wrote*. Modern study of Early English has revealed that in nine cases out of ten THE PRINTERS give us just what Shakespeare wrote *and meant*, and now that this meaning is known, the commentators often afford richer reading than a volume of Punch, and make us bless the day that we have the printers', not the commentators' Shakespeare.

Let us now turn to Early English.

'& hor vantwarde was to-broke.'

(And their vanguard was broken in twain.)

ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER'S CHRONICLE ;

Reign of William the Conqueror, (Cotton M.S. Caligula A. xi. ab. 1298.)

'For whiche on roode thou were to-rent.'

(For which on the cross thou wast torn in pieces.)

D. MERCI BEFORE THY IJGEMENT : In 82.

'Me thinketh myn herte wole a. to-breke, whanne y thinke on that soote.'

(Me thinketh mine heart will break in pieces when I think on that sweet one.)

THE LOVE OF JESUS ; In 247-8.

(Both the above are from the Lambeth M.S. 583, ab. 1430 A.D.)

'Beete Brugges a-Boute that to-Broke were.'
(Build again the bridges that were broken again-der.)

Piers. Ployman, Vernon Text, Passus viii. In 30.
'Whose rusful voyce no sooner had out-braysed
Those wofull wordes wherewith she sorrowed so,
But 'out !' alas ! she shryght, and never stayed,
Fell downe, and all to dasht her-selfe for woe.'

THOS. SACKVILLE, LORD BUCKHURST.

Induction to the Mirroure for Magistrates, s. 18.

We said that this query opened up a question not contemplated in proposing it; the question was 'In case of a dispute about the meaning, derivation, &c., of a word how is the matter to be settled?' Evidently by reference, not to dictionaries or grammars as authorities, but to *language*. This we have considered so important (apart from the question of settling the force of the language in a verse of our English Bible), as to warrant us in devoting a considerable space to an exhibition of the investigation of a dispute. We could easily have added to the quotations from Abbott & Morris, half-a-dozen from the writings of scholars noted for their researches into Early English, but we preferred giving two or three proof-quotations adding references to the original manuscripts so that statements need not be taken on reprints.

ETYMOLOGY. The inseparable prefix TO was derived from the ablative case of the numeral two and originally meant in *twain*, later it came to mean *asunder*, *apart*, and still later *exceedingly*. In Saxon poetry this to never counts in the alliteration, the other except sometimes in 'to-geanes' always. This to is of the same derivation as the Latin *dis* and Greek *dis*, the other of the Greek *de*, (no Latin equivalent).

EDITOR'S DRAWER.

"Hints on Teaching" is a specimen of the manner in which teachers might aid us and each other. Short articles of a similar character, would be very valuable, and are respectfully solicited.

COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.—We have no new names to add to the list of Candidates for election to the Council of Public Instruction, published last month. As the time for the election approaches, the public interest increases. The candidature of Dr. Sangster seems now to be attracting the greatest share of attention. While his fitness in many respects is universally conceded, his moral character has been severely assailed

for certain circumstances in connection with his resignation of the Head Mastership of the Normal School in 1871, and his second marriage. On the other hand Dr. Sangster has some warm defenders who strenuously maintain that his conduct is capable of full justification. We have no desire, at least for the present, to enter into this controversy, but we trust the teachers of the Province, who now for the first time are entrusted with the franchise, will make such a selection as will best advance the interests of education, and add to the efficiency and usefulness of the reorganized Council of Public Instruction.