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THE VERB.

(Continued from last Number.)

TO trace all the shades of meaning that these verbs have assumed, and the methods by which they gradually relinquished their notional force as principal verbs and became mere auxiliaries, would be beyond the scope of this short sketch, though it is a subject that would amply repay investigation. Their employment is an expedient resorted to at all times, and in all languages, to supply the defects, or the want of inflection. Compared with inflection, they add a clumsy appearance to a language, but they give a straightforward simplicity, a minute accuracy, and a forcible expression, that no inflection ever could do.

The variety of their use may be exemplified by the use of the word *do* as an auxiliary. From meaning 'to make,' or 'cause,' it gradually lost its force, until it became a mere auxiliary, even being used as an auxiliary to itself, as in, "If they were to do as you, they would do better than they *do do*." This example also represents the habit of using "do" to represent any verb that was not repeated, though in reality the verb is always omitted after "do. From the frequent use of "do" in this way in strong asseverations, it acquired more emphasis, thus giving rise to our emphatic form.

Perhaps the most peculiarly idiomatic use of this word, is its employment in the formation of the negative and interrogative forms. No other language has anything resembling this. In investigating the origin of these forms, we must remember that the early language was a time of expedients to supply the loss of inflections. It was the birth of a new system of grammar—a fact but reluctantly admitted by grammarians who were long wont to look to Latin construction as the perfect model of grammatical purity. This mistaken idea has been the cause of immense delay in arriving at a just estimate of our many peculiar idiomatic expressions, but we seem finally to be sated with the classical mania, and grammarians are more alive to the fact that however exact Latin grammar may be for its own language, it is simply a detailed account of the results of a long series of corruptions in the Latin language. English grammar is the same for English, and hence every language will have a grammatical system of its own; but as the laws of thought are always the same, there will always be a certain resemblance, more or less minute, between the grammars of all languages. As the result of the influence of Latin grammar on English, two negatives