

## INTRODUCTION.

### I. SHORT HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

#### SECTION A.

#### RELATION OF ENGLISH TO OTHER LANGUAGES.

THE various languages spoken by mankind admit of being grouped together in certain great *families*, the members of each of which resemble each other more or less closely in the words used to express ideas, and in the grammatical framework of forms and inflexions by which the words are combined.

One of these families of languages—the one with which we are most concerned—has been called the *Indo-European* or *Aryan* family. This family, as the name *Indo-European* implies, falls into two divisions—*Asiatic* and *European*.

The *Asiatic* division includes most of the languages spoken in India and in Persia.

The chief living languages of the *European* division are :

- (i) *Keltic* spoken in Wales, the Scottish Highlands, Isle of Man, Ireland and Brittany.
- (ii) *Hellenic* in Greece.
- (iii) *Italic* or *Romanic* in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Roumania.
- (iv) *Germanic* or *Teutonic* in England, Germany, Holland, Scandinavia and Iceland.
- (v) *Slavonic* in Russia, Poland, Servia, Bulgaria and Bohemia.