

cause of the logical nature of the language. But the underlying cause of all this is, I doubt not, to be found in the insularity of Great Britain, a fact brought into special prominence in an article lately contributed by the historian Freeman, to the June number of the *Contemporary Review*. England is in truth "Alter Orbis," "We grew up" he writes, "as an insular Teutonic people, a people of thoroughly insular mould, whose insular characteristics parted us in many things from every continental Teutonic people." Nor is this peculiarity confined to the English of Great Britain. "The great mass of dependent colonists of Great Britain," he adds, "are geographically islanders; and even those who are geographically continentals, are practically islanders..... Much of the distinctive character of the English folk in America, as well as of the distinctive character of the English folk in Britain, undoubtedly comes from this practically insular position of both." In other words, the insular position of our ancestors gave a distinctive shape to their problem of existence. They were freer than others, because, though quite as brave and quite as military as the rest of the world, they were less under the dominion of a military government, of a strong central authority. But the very fact that they were so caused the growth of a civilisation, then premature and abnormal, now unreformed and unidealised. From many of the problems that press for solution among the British on the other side of the water we are happily free, but our language is identical and stands in need of a reform that year by year makes more pressing demands for attention.

My purpose, however, in the present paper is not to deal at large with the English language, but with English grammar. Not that I imagine the two problems can really be viewed as distinct, for they are one at bottom. But for educational purposes it will be as well to confine our attention to the smaller part of the subject. And first we have to consider what ends are proposed by the study of English Grammar? To put the matter shortly, English Grammar, like Logic, is both a science and an art. It is a science inasmuch as the study of it enables us to trace the growth of the English language, to account for its forms and to estimate by these means the beauties of our literature. It is an art, too, because it help us to correct speaking. Viewed as a science, English Grammar is, of course, deserving of attentive study, but