

ever-constant change. The "struggle" by which it has been evolved consists in three processes—loss, change and production ; loss of old material, change in existing expression, and assimilation or production of new words. These processes comprehend any possible change that may occur in any language. Let it suffice, however, to direct our observations to English alone

First in order, is loss in the old substance of expression. We have said that language is an organism and hence it is governed by the laws of growth. Now, in the growth of all organic beings there is what physiologists call local death, which consists in the incessant decaying of cells and corpuscles, which are then cast off to be replaced by new ones. So is there local death in language—the decay of words and grammatical forms. In language as in all else desuetude means loss. Hence that words may retain their existence it is absolutely necessary that they be in constant use.

There are various ways by which words may fall into disuse. A word is the sign of an idea, of a conception, but when the conception designated by a certain word is no longer held, naturally enough the word itself is discarded. As instances of this take the terms of ancient customs, warfare, arts and sciences which have ceded their place to the modern terms. Here and there, however, we find terms that have come down from the olden times but they serve a far different purpose now than they did in their early use. The word *influence*, one that we hear a thousand times a day, is a relic of astrology and even down to a modern date had retained its allusion to the interference of heavenly bodies in human affairs. Thus, in *King Lear*, we hear Edmund speak of the "enforced obedience of planetary influence."

Another manner by which loss is occasioned, is the entrance of words which have the same meaning as already existing words. And in the contest for popular favor the older words are oftentimes elbowed out of the language. And how incalculable has been the effect of this agency in the English language ! After England fell into the hands of the conquering Normans, French became the language of the court and the nobles and Anglo-Saxon was abandoned to the rustics and serfs. However, the necessary relations