

Through all its vicissitudes, English remained essentially Anglo-Saxon. Other languages contributed largely, but the greater part traces its source to the original stock. Moreover it may be said, our tongue sums up all others and calls them taking what it deems fit and giving a polish and sweetness possessed by no other. "The English language," one has said, "which by no mere accident has produced and upborne the greatest and most predominant poets of modern times, may with all right be called a world-language; and, like the English people, appears destined hereafter to prevail with a sway more extensive even than its present over all portions of the globe. No other language at this day spoken deserves to be compared with it—not even our German, which is torn even as we are torn and must rid itself of many defects before it can boldly enter the lists as a competitor with the English." By it we are able to express most forcibly and simply, what we wish to; and it is said to possess the power of affording to mankind an unlimited liberty of expressing their sentiments.

Our worthy speech might with propriety be likened to a man in his different periods of life—in childhood simple and unsteady, swayed by surrounding circumstances; then verging into youthful vigor, gay and sportive; but later, casting off many childish ways, develops true manly strength. Or like an immense river, first finding its source in some small stream, flows along gradually joined by others till it has attained the dimension and fame of an Amazon—excelled by none. Such thoughts cannot but be prolific with feelings of exultation and heartily do we proclaim with the poet,

"Now gather all our Saxon bard, let harps and hearts be strung,
To celebrate the triumph of our own good Saxon tongue;
For stronger far than host that march with battle-flags unfurled,
It goes with Freedom, Thought and Truth, to rouse and rule the world."

S. J. C. '93.

