

The following may be mentioned as grammatical peculiarities distinguishing it from modern English :—

(1.) Gender was marked by special terminations, and not regulated as in modern English by the simple principle of sex. It extended to adjectives and participles, as well as nouns.

(2.) Nouns were declined in various ways, and had five cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, and ablative or instrumental), each case having its special ending or endings.

(3.) Pronouns had a *dual* number.

(4.) The infinitive mood ended in *-an*; the infinitive of purpose (dative) in *-anne* or *-enne*. The latter only was preceded by *to*.

(5.) Participles were declined like adjectives. The present participle ended in *-ende*; the passive participle was preceded by the prefix *ge-*.

(6.) *Personal* terminations played a much more important part in the conjugation of verbs than in modern English. *Shall* and *will* had not assumed a proper auxiliary use in denoting simple futurity.

(7.) Prepositions were followed by various cases.

OLD ENGLISH THE TRUE PARENT OF MODERN ENGLISH.—Though Modern English is the most heterogeneous of languages, though it has lost all power of development from within, though it is nearly bare of inflection, it is still, both historically and actually, the lineal descendant and representative of the tongue which we have just described. All its peculiarities of structure and idiom are Anglo-Saxon. Whatever of inflection it has left, its pronouns, conjunctions and prepositions, four-fifths of the words which are in most frequent and familiar use, are Anglo-Saxon. "From the same copious fountain have sprung words designating the greater number of objects of sense—terms which occur most frequently in discourse, and which recall the most vivid conceptions: *sun, moon, earth, fire, day, night*; words expressive of the dearest connections, the strongest and most powerful feelings of nature, from our earliest days: *mother, father, sister, brother, wife, home, heaven*; parts of the body: *eye, ear, nose, tooth, hand, foot*; the language of business, *buying, selling, cheap, trade*: of the shop, market, and everyday life: *bread, milk, head, knife, house, yard*;