

the same language. The *Saxons* were the most important of these, and have left their names in their old settlements of *Sussex*, *Wessex*, *Essex*, and *Middlesex*.

§ 5. The second mode of arriving at the history of a language by means of its literature is called the *historical* method. We have a very long and complete series of English works, written at different periods, and going as far back as the ninth century (to the time of Alfred). From these written documents of the language we learn—

- (1) How English has changed from time to time, and how many important events in the history of the English people are bound up with the changes that have taken place in the English language.
- (2) That we have *gradually* lost a large number of grammatical endings or *inflexions*, which we have replaced by using distinct words for them, instead of adopting new endings.

At one time we could translate Lat. “*bib-ere*” by “*drinc-an*,” but now by *to drink*.

- (3) That though we have lost very many of our old English words, and have replaced them by others of foreign origin, yet all the most common and useful words, as well as *all* our grammar, is thoroughly English, and is not borrowed.