

§ 10. OCCASIONAL CHANGE OF SOUND IN ENGLISH.

Consonants are sometimes combined. If they are unlike, one of them *assimilates*, or becomes like the other. Thus, if the first is a *sharp* sound, the second, if *flat*, will become *sharp*; as *weeped*, *wept*.

A *flat* consonant must be followed by a flat consonant, and a *sharp* consonant by a *sharp* one; as,

- I.—(1) *slabs*, pronounced *slabz*.
 (2) *bathes* „ *bathz*.
 (3) *hugged* „ *hugd*.
 lagged „ *lagd*.

- II.—(1) *slap-s*.
 (2) *bath-s* (gives a bath).
 (3) *sleeped* pronounced *slept*.
 lacked „ *lackt*.

The original sound of *s* was sharp, as in *mouse*.

(See Plurals of Nouns, § 22, p. 21.)