

part monosyllabic, and often full of consonants; while the French and Latin words are longer, smoother, and have greater breadth of vowel-sounds. It cannot well be denied that this marked diversity of character between native and foreign words gives to our language a somewhat heterogeneous and incongruous aspect. Yet it furnishes means for great variety in the expression of the same thoughts, and serves to distinguish and individualise the styles of different authors. Among writers who, in this respect, occupy an extreme position, may be named, on the one side, Bunyan, De Foe, Franklin, and Cobbett; on the other, Hooker, Milton, Johnson, and Chalmers.

It was natural that, when a multitude of foreign words were brought into our language, many should coincide in meaning with words that already belonged to it. In some cases, as in *will* and *testament*, *yearly* and *annual*, *begin* and *commence*, etc., the two words have continued to be used with scarcely any difference of meaning. But the tendency has been to turn the new material to good account by giving to the words of each pair senses more or less clearly distinguished from each other. In *body* and *corpse*, *love* and *amour*, *work* and *travel*, *sheep* and *mutton*, etc., the distinction is a broad one; in *bloom* and *flower*, *luck* and *fortune*, *mild* and *gentle*, *win* and *gain*, etc., it is slighter and more subtle. The discriminations thus established have added much to the resources of the language, giving it a peculiar richness and delicacy of expression.

DIALECTS.

The English language is not spoken with uniformity by all who use it. Nearly every county in Britain has its local dialect, its peculiar words and forms, which are used by the common people of the lower classes. This diversity is, in part, of long standing; in some points, doubtless, it goes back even to Anglo-Saxon times. The great variety of local idioms is said to divide itself naturally into two main classes—the one belonging to the east and north of the island, the other to the west and south.

In every dialect, apparently, there are preserved a certain number of old words and forms which have passed out of use, or have suffered alteration in the common language; but it is equally true that every dialect has lost or altered some which