

education was small, but he possessed a vast store of English wielded by a masterly hand. He used mostly Teutonic words, and thus his work preserves an abundant vocabulary. Milton, on the other hand, was a good classical scholar and his writings bear much of that style, thus bringing into English many classical terms. The Bible and many prominent writers made valuable contributions about this time. After the Restoration the productions of such men as Dryden, Locke and Pope show that English had gained a permanent wealth, expressiveness and clearness of structure that no other language excels. Now it may be said, this growth ceases, for thenceforth the language has not undergone many changes.

Before passing on, however, look for a moment at the particulars of development. Evidences of growth in general have been presented, but of the actual growth of the elements little notice has been made. Owing to the necessities of the age and the progress of thought, many changes were made and many new words introduced. Others originate in the wants of circumstances, but in all it is the manifestation of the fruitful mind struggling to express its meaning.

The fifteenth century was rich in words of Latin origin, and whenever a writer wished to be ornamental he used many Latin expressions. They, however, never took root in the language, but to this vain ostentation of learning we are indebted for a large number of useful words. We also owe much to the Reformation. It encouraged the Saxon element, but also encouraged the revival of learning, thus appealing to every class in the language of the learned as well as the vulgar, so that for a while it was feared that the English tongue in its original form would cease to be spoken. The result, however, was a language much more copious and delicate though overburdened by its new and sometimes useless wealth.

There are a number of sources such as spelling, accent, and the like, from which information concerning the introduction of words may be drawn. A few examples by way of illustration may not be out of place, for instance, in Shakespeare's day "Pyramids," which is now English, was spelt "Pyramides;" and synonym was, in Milton's day, "synonyma." These are only two examples of many that might be given, but they serve to show how spelling of words became altered; and a change in meaning might be shown in a similar manner.

The outcome of all was a language far excelling anything of the day. The peace that ensued after the accession of the House of Hanover afforded an excellent opportunity for the advancement of learning, and the common people became more accurately acquainted with the language of their country; so, as English dominion extended its boundaries, thither was conveyed its noble speech.