

Only a few words purely Norman are now employed; and these are chiefly law terms. Take, for example, the phrase, "Puisne Judges," which denotes the inferior judges of the Court of Common Pleas. The word *puisne* is purely Norman. It would seem, from the paucity of Norman words, and especially of Norman proper names, that in course of time the Normans died off, or, as a race, had been absorbed by their dependants, the Saxons. The following quotation from *Ivanhoe*, shows us the debased condition in which the Saxons were held by the Normans, and at the same time illustrates to us words that are of every-day occurrence:

"Why, how call you those grunting brutes running about on their four legs?" demanded Wamba.

"Swine, fool, swine," said the herd; "every fool knows that."

"And swine is good Saxon," said the jester. "But how call you the sow, when she is flayed, and drawn, and quartered, and hung up by the heels like a traitor?"

"Pork," answered the swineherd.

"I am very glad every fool knows that too," said Wamba; "and pork, I think, is good Norman-French; and so when the brute lives, and is in charge of a Saxon slave, she goes by her Saxon name; but becomes a Norman, and is called *pork*, when she is carried to the castle hall, to feast among the nobles. What dost thou think of this doctrine, friend Gurth, ha?"

"It is but too true doctrine, friend Wamba, however it got into thy fool's pate."

"Nay, I can tell you more," said Wamba, in the same tone. "There is old Alderman *Ox*, continues to hold his Saxon epithet while he is under the charge of serfs and bondsmen such as thou; but becomes a fiery French gallant, when he arrives before the worshipful jaws that are destined to consume him. Mynheer Calf, too, becomes Monsieur de Veau (that is veal), in the like manner. He is Saxon, when he requires attendance; but takes a Norman name, when he becomes matter of enjoyment."

Since the Norman conquest, the English language has not suffered any shock from the intermixture of conquerors with the natives; but greater changes have taken place through the adoption of words from the Greek and Latin classics. On the revival of learning, Latin and Greek were so much used, that the native tongue was almost lost sight of. We may confidently state, that, had it not been for the people of the lower ranks—the "*vulgus profanum*"—holding on to their own tongue, and keeping it alive despite the learned men of these times, Saxon literature would long ere this have been submerged beneath the waves of a classic deluge; and its treasures of imagination, romance, and poetry, would have been forever lost to us, and to generations yet unborn, who will yet catch its inspiring themes, and rejoice with joy unspeakable at the gems of thought for them preserved.

It surely becomes us here assembled, as far as in us lies, to preserve the purity of our language; and let me say, and let it reverberate through the length and breadth of the land, that we Teachers hold in our hands the future destinies of this Province; that we