them wave after wave of the knowledge of better things. Our
British civilisation, in fact, is two-thirds French in origin
(Roman, Gallic, Breton, Norman, Gascon, Angevin, Burgun-
dian, French), one-sixth Flemish and Dutch, one-twelfth
Spanish, one-twenty-fourth Italian, and one-twenty-fourth
German.   The language of England, of part of Wales, and of
the greater part of Scotland and Ireland, is an amalgam of Low
German and Scandinavian, powerfully influenced in pronuncia-
tion, grammar and vocabulary by Norman French, modern
French, and that Latin which was brought to us time after
time through France from the days of Cæsar to the time of
Elizabeth.   The Latin brought by the Romans affected the
British and Irish languages, and through them the Anglo-
Saxon and Scandinavian; while later on Latin through the
Roman Church enriched the Anglo-Saxon vocabulary.   Latin
and French have so crept into our modern speech—still more
into the language of the pen—that although fundamentally
English is a daughter of the Low German branch of the
Teutonic tongue (powerfully modified by Norse intermixture),
an Englishman knowing no speech but his own would be
absolutely unable to understand the drift of a printed sentence
in any of the German or Scandinavian languages; whereas
even if he did not know a word of French he could often
follow the meaning of a paragraph in a French book or
newspaper, simply because he shares in common with the
Frenchman so many expressive words in French or Latin.

The history of England between 1066 and 1688 was far
more concerned with France than with any other European
country.   The dynasties of our kings by the actual origin of
their founders or by intermarriage with French princesses were
almost as much French as English.   The two last of the
reigning Stuarts were the sons of a French mother and the
grandsons of Henry IV.

The eighteenth century began whilst Britain, Holland and
Southern Germany fought against the attempt of Louis XIV.
to make himself master of all Western Europe (in which