

extended over the rest, and the entire body of the Teutonic inhabitants of our country called themselves and their language **English**, and their country **England** (Angle-land). In speaking of themselves they also, at least for a time, employed the compound term **Anglo-Saxon**. English thus became the predominant language in our island from the Firth of Forth\* to the English Channel, and has continued so for more than thirteen centuries. During this time, it has, of course, undergone many changes. It has adopted many new words from other languages, and its forms have been altered to some extent; but it has lasted in unbroken continuity from its introduction until now.

**Modern English** is only a somewhat altered form of the language which was brought into England by the Saxons and Angles, and which in its early form, before the changes consequent upon the Norman Conquest, is commonly called **Anglo-Saxon**. The grammatical framework of Modern English is still purely **Anglo-Saxon**.

As regards its form, **Anglo-Saxon** (or **old English**) differed from modern English in this respect, that it had a much greater number of grammatical inflexions. Thus nouns had five cases, and there were different declensions (as in Latin); adjectives were declined, and had three genders; pronouns had more forms, and some had a dual number as well as a singular and plural; the verbs had more variety in their personal terminations. The greater part of these inflexions were dropped in the course of the three centuries following the Norman Conquest, the grammatical functions of several of them being now served by separate words, such as prepositions and auxiliary verbs. This change is what is meant when it is said that Anglo-Saxon (or ancient English) was an *inflexional* language, and that **modern English** is an **analytical** language.

The greater part of the foreign words that have been incorporated into English, and are now part and parcel of the language, may be divided into the following classes:—

**1. Words of Keltic origin.**—The Anglo-Saxons adopted a few Keltic words from such Britons as they kept among them as slaves or wives. These words consist chiefly of geographical names, such as Avon, Don, Usk, Exe, Ouse, Pen (in *Penrith*, *Penzance*), Mendip, Wight, Kent, &c.; and words relating to common household matters, such as *kiln*, *crook*, *clout*, *darn*, *gruel*, *mattock*, *mop*, *rug*, *wire*, &c.

**2. Words of Scandinavian origin.**—Men of Scandinavian race (Picts, Norsemen, and Danes) made repeated incursions into this island during several centuries, and established themselves in force on the eastern side of the island, in East Anglia, Northumbria, and part of Mercia. In consequence of this a good many Scandinavian words made their way into common use, and Danish or Scandinavian forms appear in many names of places in the districts occupied by

\* Lowland Scotch is a genuine Anglian dialect, and has kept closer to the Teutonic type than modern English.