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Verb-forming: -fy § 984; -ish § 985; -ize § 986.

HISTORY OF ENGLISH.

PERIODS.

1. The name 'English language' in its widest sense comprehends the language of the English people from their first settlement in Britain to the present time. For the sake of convenience we distinguish three main stages in the history of the language, namely OLD ENGLISH (OE), MIDDLE ENGLISH (ME), and MODERN ENGLISH (ME). OE may be defined as the period of full endings (mone, sunne, son, stones — stonum), ME as the period of leveling endings (mune, sunne, son, stones — stonum), ME as the period of lost endings (mune, sunne, sun, stones = stonum). We further distinguish periods of transition between these main stages, each of which latter is further divided into an early and a late period. The dates of these periods are, roughly, as follows:

Early Old English (E. of Alfred) . . . 700-900
Late Old English (E. of Alfred) . . . 900-1100
Transition Old English (E. of Layamon) . . 1100-1200
Early Middle English (E. of the Ancren Riwle) . 1200-1300
Late Middle English (E. of Chaucer) . . . 1300-1400
Transition Middle English (Caxton E.) . . 1400-1500
Early Modern English (Tudor E.; E. of Shakespeare) 1500-1650
Late Modern English . . . . . . . 1650-
English belongs to the Arian family of languages, descended from a hypothetical Parent Arian language, the chief of which are given in the following table, different periods of their development being separated by dashes:

(A) East-Arian, or Asiatic:
(a) Sanskrit, the sacred language of India—Pali—Bengali and the other Gaurian languages of India.
(b) Iranian languages: Zend or Old Bactrian. Old Persian, which is the language of the Cuneiform inscriptions—Modern Persian.
(c) Arminian, which is really half-way between East- and West-Arian.

(B) West-Arian or European:
(d) Greek—Romaic or Modern Greek.
(e) Latin—the Romance languages: Italian, Provençal, French (Old French, Modern French), Spanish, Portuguese, Roumanian.
(f) Celtic languages. Gaulish. The Goidelic group: Irish, Manx, Gaelic. The Cymric group: Welsh, Cornish, Breton (introduced from Britain).
(g) Slavonic languages. Old Bulgarian—Russian, Polish, Bohemian, Servian, Bulgarian.
(h) Baltic languages. Lithuanian, Lettish.
(i) Germanic languages.

3. The Germanic group, to which English belongs, consists of the following languages:

4. English is then a member of the Anglo-Frisian group of the Low German languages.

Old English.

5. In the fifth century—or perhaps earlier—Britain was partially conquered by a variety of Germanic tribes from the other side of the German Ocean, the chief of which were
(a) Saxons, from the country between the Elbe and the Rhine.
(b) Angles, from the district still called Angeln in the South of Schleswig.
(c) Jutes, from the North of Schleswig.
6. The first settlement is said to have been that of the Jutes, who took Kent and the Isle of Wight.

7. The Saxons occupied the country south of the Thames; except Cornwall, where the Britons still kept their nationality. Some of the Saxons settled in Sussex; some north of the Thames in Middlesex and Essex; the remaining portion of the tribe being called ‘West-Saxons,’ whence their state is called ‘Wessex.’
8. The rest of England was occupied by the Angles. Suffolk and Norfolk were included under the name of
Latin and Modern German. In its syntax it closely resembled Modern German. It also resembled Modern German in having an unlimited power of forming new words by derivation and composition, as when it made *scribes* and *pharisees* into *bookers and separation-saints* (OE *bœces* and *sundorhålgan*).

**Latin Influence.**

13. Nevertheless it adopted many Latin words, some of which it brought with it from the Continent, such as *street* and *mile* from Latin (via) *strata, milia* (passuum), *Caesar*; while others were learnt from the Romanized Britons, such as *city* from *castra, (lingva) Latina*. These are all popular words. There is another layer of learned words which came in after the introduction of Christianity in 597. Such words are *devil*, *monastery*, *verse*, from *diabolus, monasterium, versus*.

**Celtic Influence.**

14. Very few Celtic words came into OE, because the Britons themselves were to a great extent Romanized, especially the inhabitants of the cities, who were mainly the descendants of the Roman legionary soldiers. *druid* is an example of a Celtic word in OE.

**Scandinavian Influence.**

15. Towards the end of the 8th century Scandinavian pirates—chiefly from Norway, but also from Denmark, all being indiscriminately called *Danes* by the Anglo-Saxons—began to harass the coasts of England. By the end of the next century they had conquered and settled East-Anglia (in
DIALECTS OF MIDDLE ENGLISH.

21. The Norman Conquest, by depriving the old West-Saxon of its literary and political supremacy, gave free play to the development of the dialects. Although the ME dialects are continuations of the OE ones, it is convenient to call most of them by different names. The main divisions are Northern, corresponding to the Old Northumbrian, Midland, corresponding to the Old Mercian, Southern, corresponding to the old West-Saxon, and Kentish. We include the first two under the term 'North-Thames English,' the last two under 'South-Thames English.'

22. Of these dialects the Midland was the predominating one. Its commanding position in the heart of England enabled it to exercise a direct influence on all the other dialects, while Southern and Northern were completely cut off from one another. Hence even the earliest Southern of about 1200 shows considerable influence of the Midland—or Old Mercian dialect.

23. It is to be observed that the changes which distinguish one period of English from another went on much faster in the North of England than in the South. In fact, the Old Northumbrian dialect of the 10th century had already entered on its transition period—characterized by a general confusion in the use of inflections, and was thus almost on a level with the Early Southern Middle English of about 1300. Again, the Northern dialect in its Early Middle period had got rid of nearly all the inflections that are not preserved in MnE, being thus several centuries ahead of the South-Thames dialects. The Midland dialects were more conservative than the Northern, though less so than the South-Thames dialects. It will be seen, then, that the criteria of full, levelled, and
lost endings by which we distinguish the periods of English
(1) apply only to the South-Thames dialects.

Struggle between French and English.

24. For a long time the two languages, French and English, kept almost entirely apart. The English of 1200 is almost as free from French words as the English of 1050; and it was not till after 1300 that French words began to be adopted wholesale into English.

25. Meanwhile English was steadily gaining the upper hand. In 1258 we find it officially employed in the Proclamation of Henry III. In the next century French gradually fell into disuse even among the aristocracy. In 1362 English was introduced in the courts of law instead of French. About the same time English took the place of French as the vehicle of instruction in schools.


26. In the ME period the dialects had diverged so much that speakers of the extreme Northern and extreme Southern dialects were no longer able to understand one another, and the need of a common dialect became pressing. Such a common dialect can be formed only in a centre of intercourse where speakers from all parts of the country meet constantly. Such a centre was London, which now was not only the capital of England, but also a place of great and growing commercial importance.

27. The London dialect, as we find it in its earliest document, the Proclamation of Henry III, shows such a mixture of Midland and Southern forms as we might expect from its position on the border-line between these two dialects. The Midland dialect was intermediate between the two extremes, Northern and Southern, not only geographically but also linguistically; so that speakers of Midland could understand both Northern and Southern much better than Northerners and Southerners could understand one another. Hence the Midland element in the London dialect made the latter peculiarly fitted to serve as a means of general communication. Hence also the Midland element in the London dialect became stronger and stronger in the course of the ME period, till at last even Northern forms passed into it through the medium of the Midland dialect, while Southern influence became weaker and weaker.

Scandinavian Influence.

28. Although the Norwegians and Danes spoke different dialects, the difference between these dialects was very slight. The Scandinavian words imported into English seem to be mostly Danish. Although the Scandinavian dialects were not intelligible to the Anglo-Saxons, yet the cognate languages English and Scandinavian were so similar in structure and had so many words in common, that the languages blended together with the same facility as the races that spoke them. English got the upper hand, but Scandinavian nevertheless left its mark on every English dialect, especially the East-Midland and Northern dialects, where the population was half Scandinavian. *Ill, fro* in 'to and fro', *bound* in 'bound for a place', are examples of Scandinavian words in English (Icelandic *illr* 'bad', *fœra* 'from', *bætum* 'ready').

French Influence.

29. The Norman French introduced into England was not a uniform dialect, but was itself split up into local
independent language throughout the Middle Ages, Latin words were imported into Old French as well as the other Romance languages, being used first in books, then in ordinary speech. These learned words were kept as much as possible unchanged, being pronounced as they were written. It often happened that a Latin word which had assumed a popular form in French, was re-imported direct from Latin, so that chronological doublets were formed, such as captif, 'wretched' and captive, both from Latin captivus, whence the English caitiff and captive.

32. These learned French words were introduced into ME in great numbers. Hence when Latin words came to be imported directly into English, they were put into a French shape on the analogy of those Latin words which had really been brought in through French. Thus when a word in -tio, such as nomination, was taken direct from Latin, it was made into -lion (ME nation). Henceforth the other dialects of England continued to exist only as illiterate forms of speech confined within narrow areas.

33. French influence on English is most marked in the vocabulary. Soon after the Conquest English ceased for several centuries to be the language of the higher purposes of life, and sank almost to a mere peasant's dialect. So when English came again into general use, it had lost a great part of its higher vocabulary, for which it had to use French words, such as sir, duke; captain, army, battle; sermon, preach. Even when the English word was kept, the same idea was often expressed by a French word, whence numerous synonyms such as work and labour, weak and feeble.

Latin Influence.

31. In Old French itself we must distinguish between popular and learned words. The popular words in Old French, such as sire 'lord', from Latin senio 'older', are simply Latin words which have undergone those changes which take place in every language whose development is natural and unimpeded. But as Latin was kept up as an independent language throughout the Middle Ages, Latin words were imported into Old French as well as the other Romance languages, being used first in books, then in ordinary speech. These learned words were kept as much as possible unchanged, being pronounced as they were written. It often happened that a Latin word which had assumed a popular form in French, was re-imported direct from Latin, so that chronological doublets were formed, such as captif, 'wretched' and captif, both from Latin captivus, whence the English caitiff and captive.

32. These learned French words were introduced into ME in great numbers. Hence when Latin words came to be imported directly into English, they were put into a French shape on the analogy of those Latin words which had really been brought in through French. Thus when a word in -tio, such as nation, was taken direct from Latin, it was made into -lion (ME nation). Henceforth the other dialects of England continued to exist only as illiterate forms of speech confined within narrow areas.

Modern English.

33. In the Middle period literary English was still distinctly an inflectional language. In the Modern period it became mainly uninflectional, with only scanty remains of the older inflections.

34. The Modern period is that of the complete ascendancy of the London dialect, which henceforth is the only one used in writing throughout England. Henceforth the other dialects of England continued to exist only as illiterate forms of speech confined within narrow areas.

35. The spread of Modern London English—or 'Standard English,' as we may now call it—was greatly aided by
the introduction of printing in 1476. The publication of
Tindal's translation of the New Testament in 1525 paved
the way for the Authorized Version of 1611, which made
Early Modern London English what it has ever since been—
the sacred or liturgical language of the whole English-speaking
race.

Influence of other languages.

36. In the Early Modern period, the Renaissance—the
revival of the study of the classical authors of Greece and
Rome—led to the adoption of an immense number of Greek
as well as Latin words, the Greek words being generally
Latinized, just as the Latin words imported into Middle
English were Frenchified.

37. As the first prose writings were mostly either trans­
lations from Latin, or else the work of scholars to whom
Latin was in some respects a more natural means of ex­
pression than English, it was inevitable that Early MnE
prose was greatly influenced by Latin, not only in vocabu­
larv, but also in grammatical structure and idioms. In a
few generations many Latin—and some Greek—words and
expressions which were at first purely learned and technical
passed into the language of everyday life; while, on the
other hand, many others became obsolete.

38. As the relations of England with other countries
became more extended, many words were imported into
English from almost every European language, especially
Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese, and from
many other languages besides, such as Arabic, Persian, and
Turkish, and the native languages of America.

39. Standard English has always been influenced by the
different English dialects. The literary revival of Broad

40. The main general difference between Early and Late
MnE is that the former is the period of experiment and com­
parative licence both in the importation and in the formation
of new words, idioms, and grammatical constructions. The
Late MnE period is, on the other hand, one of selection and
organization. The most marked differences in detail are the
great sound-changes undergone by the spoken language—
changes which have been completely disguised by the fixity
of the orthography.
Indicative.  Subjunctive.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Singular</th>
<th>-e</th>
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<tr>
<th>Plural</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preterite Singular</td>
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| Plural            | -en, -den             |

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<td>Imperative Singular</td>
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<th>Indicative</th>
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<td>Imperative Singular</td>
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474. The following are the chief verb-endings of the active voice, including the preterite participle passive. Where two endings are given, the second is that of the weak verbs. Observe that all three persons have the same ending in the plural, and that the imperative exists only in the second person.

Verbs:

Old-English.

Inflexions.

478. There are two main conjugations of verbs in OE, strong and weak, distinguished mainly by the formation of their preterites and preterite participles. If we compare these parts of the verb with its infinitive, we find that strong verbs, such as *bindan* 'to bind,' form their preterite by vowel-change...
the ending -on, as in mūte wē 'may we,' tohte ġě 'ye sought' compared with wē mōton, ġě sohten.

477. The passive voice, and many forms of the active voice as well, are expressed by the combination of auxiliary verbs with the pret. partic. and, more rarely, the pres. partic. The chief auxiliary verbs are wesan 'be,' wōfjan 'become,' and habban 'have,' as in hē was gefunden, hē wērē gefunden 'he was found,' hē is gewomen 'he has come,' hē habb gefunden 'he has found.'

478. But besides the pret. partic., there is a trace of the old Germanic passive in the form hātē from hātan, which is both pres. 'is named, called,' and pret. 'was called.'

479. The infinitive was originally an indeclinable abstract noun formed from the corresponding verb, so that bindan originally meant 'binding,' 'act of binding.' The gerund is a similarly formed noun in the dative case governed by the preposition tō, which always precedes it, as in hē is tō cumene 'he is to come' = Latin venturus est. It often takes the a of the infin.—to cumane.

480. The pret. partic., as already stated, generally takes ge- before it; but not if the verb already has ge- or a similar inseparable prefix, as in forgēsan 'forgiven,' altered 'redeemed.' In West-Saxon hieran generally takes ge- throughout: gehīeran, gehiered.

481. Both participles are declined like adjectives: wē sindon gcumene, hē habb hine gefundenene 'he has found him,' literally 'he possesses him found.' But in the later language the pret. partic. in combination with auxiliary habban became indeclinable through the original meaning having been forgotten: hē habb hine gefunden.

482. In the older language the second person sing. ends in -J: pū infast 'thou loves,' pū lufodes. But already

487. Some strong verbs are inflected like weak verbs every-
The vowel-changes in the strong verbs are generally due to gradation (150), which is often accompanied by consonant-change, as in weorpan, geworden (146). But in some verbs the vowel of the pret. is the result of contraction of Germanic and Arian reduplication; thus hêold 'held' (infin. healdan) is a contraction of *hehold, *hehald. Traces of this reduplication are preserved in a few OE preterites, such as hêht, later hit (infin. hitan 'call,' 'command') = Germanic *hehait (Gothic hatiht).

The following are the classes under which the strong verbs fall according to their vowel-changes, each class being named after a characteristic verb. A few examples only are given of each class. The special Anglian forms are given in ( ). The forms are given in the order infin., pret. sing., pret. plur., pret. partic.

I. Reduplicative or fall-class.

488. The Germanic forms of the endings -st, -p were -is, -ip, which are still preserved in the oldest English: bindis, bindip. In West-Saxon these endings mutated a preceding vowel and then dropped their own vowels, as in féo lýst, hit grêwp from hican 'close,' 'lock,' grêwian 'grow.' The resulting consonant-combinations were modified in various ways (147): ði, ðj, ðjþ were made into tt, t, as in fått 'eats,' bitt 'waits,' bitt 'asks,' stñt 'stands' from kêtan 'let,' bidan, bidandan; and ðþ became ð, as in ðet 'chooses' from cëowan. Similar changes took place in the 2nd pers. sing.: få bêtst 'you ask,' få êetst. In Anglian the full endings -is (-sett), -ip were restored, the unmutated vowels being at the same time restored: létt, bidê, bidêh, bidìdh, sfêndë; biddê, ðêëse.

II. Shake-class.

492. These verbs have in the infin. a, an, or, in ð-verbs the mutations ð, ð, in the pret. sing. and plur. v, in the pret. partic. a, an:

faran 'go' for foran foren
III. Bind-class.

493. In the infin. i, e, io followed by two consonants one at least of which is nearly always a vowellike consonant—r, l, n, m; in the pret. sing. o, a, ea; in the pret. plur. u; in the pret. partic. u, o.

bindan 'bind'
bindan 'bind'
bundan bundan bunden bunden

gieldan (geldan) 'pay'
geald (geld) gieldan golden

helfan 'help'
helpt (helpt) helfan helpten

berstan (berstan) 'burst'
berst bursten bursten

werstan 'become'
woerh verdienen verdienen

fehtan (fehtan) 'fight'
feht (feht) fehten fehten

IV. Bear-class.

494. In the infin. e, ie, o followed by a single consonant which is generally vowellike; in brecan the vowellike consonant precedes the vowel; in the pret. sing. a, a>, ea; in the pret. plur. é, o, d\, in the pret. partic. o, u:

bær 'bear'
bær 'bear'
börn bærn börn börn

brec 'break'
brecc brecc breccen breccen

scicran (sceran) 'cut'
scir (scir) sciron (sciron) sciren

niman 'take'
nim, nym niman, naim naim

scacan 'shake'
scacen

hebban (hebben) 'raise'
hebben hebban hebben hebben

scacan 'shake'

V. Give-class.

495. In the infin. eo, u; and, in the j-verbs i, followed by a single consonant which is generally vowellike, in brecan the vowellike consonant precedes the vowel; in the pret. sing. a, o, e; in the pret. plur. a, é, é, a; in the pret. partic. a, u:

beran 'carry'
beran beran beran beran

brecc 'break'
brecc brecc breccen breccen

scicran (sceran) 'cut'
scir (scir) sciron (sciron) sciren

niman 'take'
nim, nym niman, naim naim

VI. Shine-class.

496. In the infin. i; pret. sing. á; pret. plur. and pret. partic. i:—

drifan 'drive'
drif drifon drifen

slican 'shine'
sicn slicon slicen

writan 'write'
writ writen writen

VII. Choose-class.

497. In the infin. é, ë; pret. sing. éa; pret. plur. u; pret. partic. o:—

beordan 'command'
bead budon boden

lietan 'choose'
liæa curon coren

fræcan 'freeze'
fræa fræon fræren

bigan 'bend'
beg, bæh bugon begen

WEAK VERBS.

498. The weak verbs fall under two main groups, according as the vowel of the infin. is mutated or not. The mutation-group comprises two classes, the hear-class (hieran) and the wean-class (weian), the unmutated verbs constituting the third or love-class (liefan).

1. Hear-class.

499. The following are the Early West-Saxon forms:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indic.</th>
<th>Sub.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Sing.</td>
<td>hiræ</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>hiræt</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>hiræp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>hiræp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pret. Sing.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>hirædist</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>hirdæ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>hirdæn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
II.

500. This class adds -de in the pret. and -ed in the pret. partic., where the e is liable to be dropped when an inflectional vowel is added, as in the nom. plur. gehereserved. Verbs ending in l, d, c drop the e in the uninflected form also, as in ðænd 'sent' (infin. ðændan), where d is a shortening of dd. After the breath-consonants l, d the inflectional d is unvoiced, and c becomes h: mætan 'find,' meet' gemet, tæcan 'show' gemæht. But the full forms ðænded, gemeted also occur, especially in Anglian. Similar changes take place in the pret. -lde, -c(ed)lde become -lic, -c(ed), as in gemette 'found,' dycle 'dipped!' (infin. dycylan). The inflectional d is also unvoiced after ss and the other breath-consonants, as in misan 'miss' miste, compared with ræsan, where the s=(z). In dycle the p is, of course, a shortening of pp. There are similar shortenings in sylilan, sped, syl蒜an, sylæte, etc.

501. I b. Seek-class. In this subdivision of the hear-class the vowel of the infin. is unmutated in the pret. and pret. partic., the inflections being the same as in the other verbs of the hear-class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imper. Sing.</th>
<th>Hier</th>
<th>Infin.</th>
<th>Hieran</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>Hieran</td>
<td>Gemet l ðierence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partic. Pres.</td>
<td>Hierande</td>
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<td>Pret.</td>
<td>Hiered</td>
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</table>

502. Those with n followed by e or g—Þæcan 'think,' bringan 'bring'—drop the nasal and lengthen the preceding vowel and modify it in other ways: Þæcan, þæhte, þæhte = Germanic *pækhan, *pæhtih, au before h having been regularly changed to nasal ð, which in OE as regularly

became ð. Long vowels were shortened in OE before ðt, so that þæhte, etc. became þæhte. Seek-verbs in -cød carry the mutated vowel e into the pret. and pret. partic. in Late West-Saxon: stræcóm, 'stretch,' streáhte, streáht (streáhte, streáht) later streáht, streáht.

503. It will be observed that all verbs of the hear-class have long syllables in the infin.—either a long vowel or an inflectional vowel following. Verbs ending in -de in the pret. and -ed in the pret. partic. are the same as in the other verbs of this class with double consonants in the infin.: as sylilan 'set,' are inflected like strong j-verbs such as biddan (487), the double consonant being also shortened in the pret. and pret. partic.: pres. indic. sylte, sylte (sylte), sylte (sylte), sylh (sylh), sylh (sylh); subj. sylte(n); imper. sylte, sylte; pres. part. sylte(n): pret. sylte=sylte(n); pret. partic. gesylte, gesylte. Some of these verbs belong to the seek-division, such as sylgan 'say': pres. indic. sylgan, sylgan (sylgan), sylh (sylh), sylh (sylh); imper. sylgan, sylgan; pres. partic. gesylgan; pret. sylgh, pret. partic. gesylgh. So also sylgan has pres. indic. sylgh, sylgh (sylgh), sylgh, imper. sylgh, sylgh, etc.

II. Wean-class.

504. All of these verbs have infin. -ian and a short root-syllable with a mutated vowel. They form their pret. in -ıt, and their pret. partic. in -ıt, which is never contracted. The following are the Early West-Saxon forms of sylgan 'accustom':—
So also scian 'ask,' mæcian 'make,' and many others.

### ACCIDENTE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indic.</th>
<th>Subj.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Sing.</td>
<td>włęgi</td>
<td>włęgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>włęgst</td>
<td>włęgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>włęg</td>
<td>włęgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>włęgian</td>
<td>włęgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Sing.</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
<td>włenclose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imper. Sing.</td>
<td>włęgi</td>
<td>włęgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>włęgian</td>
<td>włęgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partic. Pres.</td>
<td>włęgijende</td>
<td>włęginje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret.</td>
<td>geliend</td>
<td>geliend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So also fērian 'carry' [faran 'go'] styrian 'stir.'

### III. Love-class.

505. In Germanic these verbs had infinitives -ian, -on, of which -ian is a later development and therefore does not cause mutation like the -ian of the weak-class, which is of Germanic origin. The following are the Early West-Saxon forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indic.</th>
<th>Subj.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Sing.</td>
<td>lufge</td>
<td>lufge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>lufgest</td>
<td>lufge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>lufge</td>
<td>lufge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Sing.</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imper. Sing.</td>
<td>lufge</td>
<td>lufge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
<td>lufgen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partic. Pres.</td>
<td>lufjende</td>
<td>lufjenje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret.</td>
<td>geliend</td>
<td>geliend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So also scian 'ask,' mæcian 'make,' and many others.

### Irregular Weak Verbs.

506. Some weak verbs, such as libban 'live,' show a mixture of the inflections of the hear- and the love-class: pres. indic. libbe, leofast, leofap, libbap; subj. libb(n); imper. leofa, libbap; pres. partic. libbende; pret. lifde, pret. partic. geliend.

### Preterite-present Verbs.

507. These verbs have for their presents old strong pre-terites; thus the preterite-present verb bi 'I know' was originally a strong preterite of the shine-class. The present of these verbs differs however from the strong preterites in the 2nd sing. indic., which ends in -ce or -se, and before the inflectional -e also becoming -e: *it secelt 'I shall,* bi secelt; *it cuma 'I know,* bi cuma; *it wåt 'I know,* bi wåst.

508. From these presents new weak preterites are formed with various irregular changes: sceolde, cipe, wiste.

509. Many of these verbs are defective, the infin., imper., and participles being often wanting. The subj. is often substituted for the imper. sing. The following are the inflections of witan 'know':

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indic.</th>
<th>Subj.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Sing.</td>
<td>wolt</td>
<td>wite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>wist</td>
<td>wite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>wite</td>
<td>wite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>wisten</td>
<td>witen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Sing.</td>
<td>wite</td>
<td>wite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>wistest</td>
<td>wite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>wite</td>
<td>wite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur.</td>
<td>wisten</td>
<td>witen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
510. The ME levelling of weak vowels under e had a comparatively slight effect on the verb inflections, especially in Early Southern, where the OE verb-inflections were preserved very faithfully. But the inevitable change of -a, -ast, -ap, -ode into -e, -est, -epe, -ede, as in luve, Invest, luvep, luvede = OE luf a, lufast, lufap, luf ode, necessarily led to a complete levelling of the old wean- and love-classes of weak verbs, the ME love-class including all the OE ian-verbs whether accompanied by mutation or not.

511. The Southern tendency to drop final n first affected the infin. and pret. partic.: Early Southern binden, bind ; ibunden, ibund.

512. The tendency to shorten double consonants in weak syllables made the OE gerund to bindenne into ME to bindene.

513. The tendency to drop final weak e after another weak syllable (174) led to the shortening of to bindene into to binden, which made it liable to be confused with the infin. So also luve = OE lufer, lufern was often shortened to luvi.

In the South-Thames dialects this -e afterwards came to be regarded as the special mark of the infin., being sometimes extended to strong verbs as well as weak verbs with OE infin. -an.

514. In Early Southern the pres. partic. ending is -inde, as in bindinde, herinde, which probably owes its r to the influence of the verbal nouns in -inge, -ing = OE -ing, -an, such as lerninge = OE lernung.

515. Early Southern keeps the prefix i = OE ge- : ibunden, ihören = OE gebunden, gehörn.

516. The most important change in the strong verbs is that many of them became weak. Already in OE such verbs as slépan 'sleep,' ondrédan 'fear,' had the weak preterites slápte, ondrædde; in Late West-Saxon hÛban 'raise' has the weak pret. hafde by the side of strong hof, and so on. In ME this is carried much further. Thus even in the earliest ME we find the OE strong preterites let 'let,' weop 'wept' represented not only by let, weop, but also by the weak lette, wepte, although such forms as weip still survive in Standard Late ME. Many other weak and strong forms existed side by side for a long time; and although in MNE the weak forms have nearly always prevailed, this was not always the case in ME, where, for instance, such a weak pret. as hafde 'raised' was in the Late ME period discarded in favour of the new-formed strong pret. haf, the old haf being also preserved.

517. The inflections of the strong verbs that remained were modified by various levelling influences. The mutation in the contracted forms of the OE presents was got rid of by bringing in the unmutated vowel of the infin., etc., as in berp 'carries,' tret 'treads,' stout 'stands,' infin. beren, treden, sïðen = Early West-Saxon berp (birp), treit, sït.

518. The gradation of consonants in the OE tiyan, gecoren, etc. was got rid of by carrying the r through : choren, chïen, chïp, chïgen.

519. In this last verb we can also observe the extension
of ch = OE ē to the original ē of the pret. partic., so as to make initial ch uniform throughout the whole verb. We can observe the opposite levelling of ch under ð in such verb-forms as kerven, kærf=OE ceorfen, ceærf, which have taken their back-consonant from the OE pret. plur. ceorfen and pret. partic. ceærf.

520. But in some verbs the old consonant-gradations were preserved, as in forlēsen 'lose,' forlēs, forlōren.

521. Some of the ME changes had the contrary effect of creating new distinctions. Thus OE æ, é was regularly shortened before consonant-groups, and the resulting æ was afterwards broadened to a (177), as in the OE pret. táhle 'showed,' which in ME passed through táhle into tahte, whence MnE taught.

522. The following are the inflections of the strong verb binden, and of the weak verbs heren 'hear' and luveien, as representatives of the two classes of weak verbs in Early Southern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. Indic. Sing.</th>
<th>1 binden</th>
<th>here</th>
<th>luve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 bindest, bindst</td>
<td>here(st)</td>
<td>luvest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 bind, bindst</td>
<td>here(þ)</td>
<td>luveþ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plur. binden</th>
<th>here(n)</th>
<th>luve(n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. Subj. Sing.</th>
<th>binden</th>
<th>heren</th>
<th>luven</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 binden, binden</td>
<td>here(n)</td>
<td>luve(n)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plur. binden</th>
<th>here(n)</th>
<th>luve(n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

523. In the forms binden gē, bānde gē, -e is substituted for -ep (476).

524. It will be observed that the distinction between the two classes of weak verbs is very slight, the ð of the love-class being often dropped—i luve, wē luvep, &c.—while the imper. sing. here has taken the e of luve(n), luve.

525. In Early Midland many levellings which are only just beginning in Early Southern are fully carried out. The love-class lost their i entirely, and as the hear-class generally had the full Anglian endings -est, -ep, there is only one set of inflections for the two classes: héren, lufen=Southern héren, luve(n). On the other hand, the contracted forms of the hear-class are extended to the love-class, as in birp 'befits/ 'becomes' pret. birde—OE geþre, geþreð, geþræð, infin. geþrathan (wean-class).

526. The characteristic feature of the Midland verb is its extension of the plur. ending -en of the subj. pres. and of the pret. indic. and subj.—gif pei lufen, pei cumen 'came,' gif pei cumen— to the present indic. plur.: wē lufen, pei cumen=Southern wē luveþ, heo cumen. But the older -eþ
is kept in the imper. plur.: cumep, bép! 'be ye' = Southern cumep, bëp.

527. In Early Midland the gerund was completely levelled under the infin.: to binden, to hirin.

528. In Midland the pres. partic. keeps the old ending: bindende, hirende, lufende. The n of the infin. and strong pret. partic. is never dropped as in Southern. The pret. partic. loses its prefix ge-.

529. The distinction between single and double consonant forms in the old j-verbs, such as hëbban, hëf, hën and libban, leofþ, lifde, which was still kept up in Early Southern—hëbben, hëfþ; libben, leofþ, lifþ—began to break down in Early Midland through the extension of the single consonant forms; thus in Early Midland we find pres. plur. indic. lifen = Early Southern libþþ, although the older infin. libben is still kept in Early Midland; but lëf is used not only as a pres. plur., but also as an infin.

530. In the Northern dialect inflectional j had been changed to s, and final n had begun to drop off already in the OE period: Old Northumbrian bindes, bindas, binda = Mercian bindþ, bindþ, binda. In the Early Middle period weak final e was dropped, so that the infin. binda = Old Northumbrian bindþ became monosyllabic bind, under which the gerund to bind was levelled. The subj. binda = Old North. sing. and plur. binda was reduced to the same monosyllable. Hence also the pret. plur. herden was reduced to the same form as the sing.—herd. The effect of these changes on a strong pret. such as that of bind was to leave only two forms—bånd 1st and 3rd pers. sing. indic., and bind 2nd pers.

531. In Late Old Northumbrian the old ending of the 2nd person pres. -es, -as, etc. was preserved by the influence of the new 3rd person -es, -as = -ep, -ah. Hence in Early Northern -es became the common ending of the 2nd and 3rd persons indic. pres. sing. In the pres. indic. plur. -es = older -ae, -as was dropped when the verb was immediately preceded or followed by its pronoun: wé pat bindes, men bindes; wé bind, pat bind. The 'absolute' form was afterwards extended to the 1st pers. sing. as well; i pat bindes.

532. The n of the strong pret. partic. was not lost in Old Northumbrian because of the inflected forms gebundene, etc., by whose influence the n was restored in the uninflected form; hence it was always kept in the ME Northern dialect as well.

533. The Northern form of the pres. partic. is -and: bindand, hërand = Midland and OE bindende, hirende; Southern bindinde, hirinde. This a is the result of Scandinavian influence: Icel. bindandi, hýrandi.

534. The following are then the most distinctive verb-inflections of the three dialects in their Early Middle periods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indic.</th>
<th>Pres. Sing.</th>
<th>1. bindes</th>
<th>2. bindest, bintst</th>
<th>3. bindþþ, bindþþ, bindþþ</th>
<th>Plur.</th>
<th>binþþ</th>
<th>bindþþ</th>
<th>bindþþ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>bindes bind bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LATE MIDDLE ENGLISH.

535. The most important change in Standard ME and in Late South-Thames English generally is the further assimilation of the pres. partic. to the verbal nouns in -inge by which the earlier *bindende* became *bindinge*, a change of which we see traces already in Early Southern, as in *he riden singinge* 'they rode singing'—OE *hieridon singende*. But as the verbal nouns also occur without final *-e*, the distinction between *learninge* partic. and *learning* noun was not entirely lost.

536. Early ME *d* was changed to *t* in the weak pret. and pret. partic. of verbs in *rd, ld, nd*: *girt, girt*, infin. *girden*; *bilde, bilt* infin. *bilden*; *wente, went* infin. *wenden* = Early Southern *gird*, *gird*; *bilde*, *bild*; *wende*, *wend*. This change served to distinguish such forms as *he sende* pres. subj. and *he sente* pret., which in Early ME were both expressed by the first form. But it is also carried out in some words with *l, ll, n, an*: *felten* 'feel', *felte*; *dwellen, dwelle*; *mpien, mente*; *brennen* *bren*, *brente*; and after *s = (z)* and *v*, where it unvoices these consonants: *losien = OE losian, losle*; *lægan, leht*, *laft*.

537. In Standard ME we see the same levelling and simplifying tendencies at work as in Early Midland and Northern. The old vowel-change in such preterites as *bnnd* is still kept up, but the short form *bnnd* is often extended throughout the pret.: *hû bnnd*, *vê bnnd* as well as *hû bounde, vêt bounde*.

538. In some verbs of the bear- and give-class the *i* of the plural is sometimes extended to the sing. as in *bër, së* by the side of *bér, ser* = OE *bær, ser*; see *bér, së* in Anglian *bërôn*, *sëton*.

539. Influence of the strong plur. pret. on the sing. is also seen in such sing. preterites as *slôw, sav* = Early Southern *sloh* plur. *sloven*, Late OE *slik*, *slôgen*, OE *sæh*, *sænon*.

540. In Late ME the pret. partic. begins to influence the pret. plur. As a general rule the old plur. plurals were preserved in Late ME only when they had the same vowel as the pret. partic., as in *pei boanden, pei drôken, pei bovanen* (class 3), *riden, wôten* (class 6); otherwise the plur. pret. took the vowel of the pret. partic.: *pei holphen, fôchten, êfôn*.

541. The sing. of the imper. began to be extended to the plur.: *bind* 'bind ye' by the side of *bind*.

542. In the love-class of weak verbs the *i* was dropped entirely, and the pret. ending *-ede* was often shortened to *-ed* in accordance with the general principle of dropping weak *e* after a weak syllable: *hê looch, hê looch*.

543. Some of the above changes may be the result of Midland influence, of which we have an undoubted example in the substitution of *-en* (*-e*) for *-ep* in the plur. indic. pres. *-eb* was, of course, kept in the plur. imper., although here also the Midland ending seems to occur in its shortened form *-e*; *bind*.

544. The following are the Standard ME inflections of the three verbs whose Early ME inflections have been given already:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. Indic. Sing.</th>
<th>1. bûnde</th>
<th>2. bûndest</th>
<th>3. bûnd, bûnt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plur. bûnde(n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>bûndes(t)</td>
<td>bûndes(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Subj. Sing.</td>
<td>bûnde</td>
<td>bûnd(n)</td>
<td>bûnd(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur. bûnd(n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>bûndes(t)</td>
<td>bûndes(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Indic. Sing.</td>
<td>bûnd</td>
<td>bûnnde, bûnd</td>
<td>bûnnde, bûnd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur. bûnnde(n), bûnd</td>
<td>bûnnde(n), bûnd</td>
<td>bûnnde(n), bûnd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ACCIDENCE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pret. Subj. Sing.</th>
<th>1. bounde</th>
<th>2. bounde</th>
<th>3. bounde</th>
<th>Plur. bounde(n)</th>
<th>Imper. Sing. bind</th>
<th>Inf. bind, a)</th>
<th>Germ. binden(n), binden</th>
<th>Partic. Pres. bindinge</th>
<th>Pret. (prefix) bound(e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Pret. Subj. Sing.**
- i bounde
- er(b) bounde
- e bounde

**Pret. Subj. Plur.**
- i bounde
- e bounde
- er(b) bounde

**Imper. Sing.**
- bind
- e bind
- er(b) bind

**Inf.**
- bind, a)
- er(b) bind
- e bind

**Germ.**
- binden(n), binden
- er(b) binden(n)
- e binden(n)

**Partic. Pres.**
- bindinge
- er(b) bindinge
- e bindinge

**Pret.**
- (prefix) bound(e)
- e bound(e)
- er(b) bound(e)

---

The following examples will show the regular development of the different classes of strong verbs:

#### I. Fall-class.

- fallen
- felt
- fallen
- helden
- grewen
- kniwen

#### II. Shake-class.

- shaken
- shook
- shaken
- woken
- waken
- laughen
- lowen
- drawen
- drowen

Observe that the preterites of this class have split up into two groups, one with i, the other with e (\[186\]).

#### III. Bind-class.

- binden
- bough bounded
- drunk
- dranken
- weaken
- woken
- kerven
- karf
- helpen
- halp
- fitlen
- faught

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>§ 553.</th>
<th>VERBS: MODERN ENGLISH.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### IV. Bear-class.

- stilen
- stilt
- stilen
- bär, bär
- bören, bär

#### V. Give-class.

- gieten
- gitten, gitten
- gitten
- sat, sät
- sitten, sät

#### VI. Shine-class.

- riiden
- riiden
- riiden
- riiden
- riiden

#### VII. Choose-class.

- criten
- crépen
- crépen
- chépen
- chépen

Modern English.

552. The main innovation in the MnE verb-inflections was the introduction of the Northern -\(\text{-en}\) in the 3rd pers. sing. pres. indic.—he calle—which was introduced into Standard English through the medium of the Midland dialect. It did not entirely supplant the older -\(\text{-el}\)—he calle—which still survives in the higher literary language.

553. The MnE verb is further characterized by the development of a gerund. When the pres. partic. ending -\(\text{-ing}\) lost its final vowel, the last vestige of a formal distinction between such a pres. partic. as leurning and the verb-noun leurning disappeared. In OE the number of verb-nouns in -\(\text{-ing}\), -\(\text{-ing}\) was limited, especially in the earlier stages of the language. In ME their number increased, and when the pres. partic. in -\(\text{-ing}\) was fully established, and became indistinguishable in form from the ing-nouns, these could be
formed at pleasure from any verb; or, in other words, every pres. partic. could be used as a verb-noun. At first—in Early MnE as well as ME—these words were used entirely as nouns—taking the article the before them and the preposition of after them, etc.—as in he thanked him for the saving of his life, where saving is used exactly like the abstract noun preservation; but by degrees they were treated like infinitives, the article being dropped and the following noun joined on to them as to the corresponding finite verb; so that the above sentence was shortened to he thanked him for saving his life. In such constructions, which began in Early MnE, saving etc. are true noun-verbals or gerunds.

654. In MnE the dropping of weak final e, together with the ME tendency to drop final weak n, had a great effect in simplifying the verb-inflections. The monosyllabic bind became the representative of the following ME forms: pres. indic. 1st pers. sing. I bind, plur. we bind(n), etc., pres. subj. bind, bind(n). The levelling of the distinction between the pret. and pret. partic. which had begun in ME was completed in the MnE forms herd (heard), loved representing ME herde, lovely (loved) and (i)hard, (i)loved. Such weak verbs as set and cast became invariable in the pret. and pret. partic.: infin. set, pret. set, pret. partic. set = ME sette(n), sette, (i)set. Moreover in such verbs the distinction between strong and weak conjugation is effaced: compare set pret. set with let pret. let = OE æftan, ætt; ðedan, ðæt.

655. The weak vowel of the endings -est, -eth, -es, -ed was dropped in Early MnE in the spoken language, except that full -est, -et was always kept after the hss-consonants (s, z; f, y), being subject to exactly the same rules as the noun-inflectional -es (310), as in misest, misses, rises, rises, wishes, singer. Full -ed was preserved after the point-stops t, d, as in hated, wanted, wedded, wounded = ME hótde, etc. Otherwise all these endings were shortened in speech without regard to the ME forms—in loves (luvz), lovest, loved (luvp), as well as hears, hears, hearest, heareth. In this way the distinction between the two classes of weak verbs was finally done away with as far as the endings were concerned, the distinction being only partially recognizable in the sound-changes in such verbs as hear, heard (hir, hard); feel, felt; teach, taught.

556. But in the higher language the full endings -est, -eth, -ed were freely used after all consonants indifferently, especially in poetry, for the sake of the metre. -es was not used in this way because the less familiar -eth could always be substituted for it. Some very common verbs were, however, used only in the short forms, such as dost, doth, mayst, wouldest, especially the contracted hast, hath, had = ME hasted, hast etc. -est was generally shortened in weak preterites, as in beloved, criest. -est and -eth are obsolete in Present English except in the higher language, in which they naturally keep their full forms, except in dost, hath etc. The higher language also keeps full -ed in many forms where the spoken language contracts, as in beloved (bi'hvid) compared with loved (luvd), blessed are the peacemakers.

557. The vowel of the full endings is now weak (i), as in (raizist, raiziz, raizub, heitid), and in Early MnE as well as Late ME it was often written e, y instead of i, as in Early MnE thou spyst, he dwellis, pustith, passitt, armid.

558. In writing, the silent e of -es was generally omitted in Early MnE, as in sitt, bindis; but not after v, as in loves, nor, of course, where required to show the pronunciation of a preceding letter, as in shives.

559. The consonant of shortened -es was assimilated as
regards breath and voice to the preceding consonant in the same way as in the noun-inflections: lets, leads (ledz), loves (luvs). The same assimilations took place with shortened -ed: loved (luvd), breathed (breæd), thanked (thanked), blessed (blessed). -ed being thus used to express (-t), this spelling was often extended to such preterites as burnt, smelt, which were written burned, smelted, although they come from ME burnt, smelt. But the phonetic spellings thankt (thank'd), dropt (dropt), crost (crost'd), accusst also came into partial use, and some of them have become fixed, such as past in half past one compared with the time has passed quickly.

The above are organic changes. We have now to consider the internal changes in the verb-inflections, beginning with those of a levelling character.

§ 560. The change of strong to weak verbs which we observe in ME went on in the transition from ME to MnE, and, in some cases, in MnE itself. Thus the Early MnE preterite clomb and the pret. partic. molten have now become climbed, melted. But some of the weak forms that arose in Early MnE have now been discarded, such as the Shakesperian pret. participles corned, becomed.

§ 561. On the other hand, several weak verbs have been made strong by the analogy of strong verbs, such as stick, stuck (OE stican, stucu) by the analogy of sing, sung; wear, wore, worn (OE wæran, wæred) by the analogy of swear, swore, sworn. So also several weak verbs in -ow have taken pret. participles in -own by the analogy of know, known, etc., keeping the original weak pret.: show, showed, pret. partic. shown (OE séawan, séawod).§ 562. The levelling of the short quantity of the vowels in the sing. of strong preterites under the long quantity of the pret. partic. and infin. seen in Late ME bir = Early ME byr, bar is carried much further in MnE, as in brake, spake = Late ME brak, spak, pret. partic. brakten, infin. brakten etc. When a certain number of preterites in a had been thus lengthened, others were lengthened without regard to the length of the other parts of the verb, such as come, bade = ME com, bad, infin. cimen, hidden, although the latter had a long vowel in the pret. partic. cimen.

§ 563. There is also a regular process of voice-levelling in the MnE strong verb, by which final (s, f) in the pret. sing. becomes voiced as in the infin. and pret. partic., as in rose, chose, gave, drove = ME rós, chifs, gaf, dróf, infin. risen, driven etc., pret. partic. driven etc.

§ 564. The distinction between pret. sing. and plur. was levelled, as we have seen, in the MnE weak verbs by phonetic changes. In the strong verbs it was levelled by external, analogical changes. Already in ME strong verbs the vowel of the sing. was often carried into the plur., especially when the plur. had a long vowel in the pret. partic., as in þet stal instead of þet stelen (pret. partic. stålen). Hence such Early MnE preterites as bare, brake, gave, sat correspond to ME singulars.

§ 565. In many cases, however, MnE strong preterites have the vowel of the ME pret. plur. We have seen that in Late ME there was an intimate connection between the vowel of the pret. plur. and of the pret. partic. in strong verbs, so that at last the pret. plur., when it differed from the pret. sing., almost always had the vowel of the pret. partic. Hence in MnE the vowel of the pret. plur. when thus supported by the pret. partic. was often able to supplant the original singular-vowel. This was carried out consistently in those verbs of the bind-class which had ME (uu) in the pret. plur.
and pret. partic.: bound, found = ME bënd, fënd, plur. bounden etc. The same change took place in other verbs of the bind-class, and in some of the shine- and choose-class, many verbs having two preterites in Early MnE, one representing the ME pret. sing., the other with the vowel of the plur.: began, begun; sang, sung; stang, stung; faught, fought = ME bigan, sing, sing, faught—hit; rode, rid; wrote, writ = ME hit, rid, writ. The present forms of these preterites are began, sang, stung, fought, bit, rode, wrote, the tendency evidently being to favour the original sing. forms.

566. But there has been in MnE a further assimilation of the pret. to the pret. partic., which has affected nearly all verbs of the bear-class with ME g in the pret. partic.: already in Early MnE we find the preterites bore, broke, spoke by the side of bare, brake, spoke = ME Brad, Brak, spak, ME stal being represented by stole only in Early MnE. In Present English bare etc. survive only in the higher language.

567. When a direct association had thus been established between the pret. and pret. partic. the two parts of the verb began to be confused—a confusion which was helped by the pret. partic. in I have seen etc. having nearly the same meaning as the pret. I saw etc.—so that the pret. began to be substituted for the pret. partic. in some verbs, especially when the older form of the pret. partic. was liable to be forgotten through not being in very frequent use—as in the case of ME shinen from shine—or ambiguous—as in the case of ME stidden, which was both pret. partic. and infin.—or anomalous and irregular in any way, as in often compared with the infin. siten. Hence in MnE the original preterites shown, stood, sat have supplanted the older pret. participles. In Early MnE this was carried still further than in Standard Present English, as in look, shook, arose = taken, shaken, arisen.

568. In the above examples the pret. participles shown etc. lost their final n through the substitution of a form with a different vowel. Such pret. participles as bound, begun = ME bounden, bigonnen may be considered either as the result of extension of the MnE pret. forms bound etc., or of dropping the e of the curtailed ME forms (i)bound, etc.

It sometimes happens that the pret. partic. ending -en is dropped in a verb, but preserved in an adjective formed from the pret. partic. before it had lost the -en, as in the adjectives drunken, bounden, (in bounden duty) compared with the pret. participles drunk, bound.

569. In Early MnE the ending -est was extended to the pret. indic. of strong verbs: thou boundest, thou spakest = ME bounde, spak. The rare Early MnE dropping of -st in weak as well as strong preterites, as in thou saw, thou made, thou had is probably the result of Northern influence. But in Present English, poets often instinctively drop this harsh and heavy inflection, especially when the verb is separated from its pronoun: where thou once formed thy paradise (Byron). Verbs whose pret. is the same as the pres.—especially those in -st—frequently drop the inflectional -st, or else add it with an intervening -ed for the sake of distinctness: thou castedst or thou cast.

570. The following is the Early MnE conjugation of the strong verb see and the weak verb call:—

| Indic. Pres. Sing. | 1 | see | call |
| 2 | see(e)st | call(e)st |
| 3 | see(e)sth, see | call(e)sth, calls |

| Plur. | see | call |
| Subj. Pres. | see | call |

| Pret. Indic. Sing. | 1 | saw(e)st | call(e)st |
| 2 | saw(e)sth, saw | call(e)sth, calls |
| 3 | saw | call |

| Plur. | saw | call |

570.1 VERBS: MODERN ENGLISH.
Besides the above inflections there are others which occur only as isolated archaisms. The contracted -eth has left a trace in the form list 'wishes,' 'likes;' as in let him do it when he list = OE lyst (fyth). All three ME indic. plurals are found in the early MnE literary language, the most frequent of which—the Midland -en—survives in the Shakesperian they waven in their mirth. The Southern -eth and the Northern -es are much less frequent. The infin. or gerund in -en survives in Shakespere: to killen.

§ 571. The following examples will show the regular development of the different classes of strong verbs in literary MnE. It will be observed that the best-preserved classes are the 3rd and the 6th, the others being so reduced in the number of their verbs, and there being so much divergence of form, that they retain hardly a trace of their OE characteristics:

I. Fall-class.

§ 572. fall fell fallen
hold held held, beholden
grow grew grown
know knew known

II. Shake-class.

§ 573. shake shook shaken
take took taken

The Late ME preterites in (-un)=OE -uh, such as drew, show, were in Early MnE leveled under the more numerous ew-verbs of the fall-class: drew, drew; show, show.

§ 579-3 VERBS: PRESENT ENGLISH.

III. Bind-class.

674. sing sang sung
drink drunk drunk
sting stung stung
swing swung swung
bind bound bounden
find found found
fight fought fought

IV. Bear-class.

675. bear bare bore born(e)
steal stole stolen

V. Give-class.

676. give gave given
weave wove woven
sit sat sat

VI. Shine-class.

677. drive drove driven
rise rose risen
write wrote written
bite bit bitten
shine shone shone

The occasional Early MnE preterites drave, strave, etc., are probably Northern forms.

VII. Choose-class.

678. freeze froze frozen
choose chose chosen

PRESENT ENGLISH.

§ 579. In the present Spoken English the earlier substitution of you see, you saw for thou seest, thou sawest, and of he see...
for *he seoth* has been completely carried out, so that the older *-st* and *-th* survive only in proverbs and in phrases taken from the higher literary language, where the older forms still survive.

Having traced the English verb down to its most reduced MnE form, it will now be more instructive to regard it from a purely descriptive, unhistorical point of view.

If we examine the Present English verb from this point of view, the first thing that strikes us is that the traditional distinction between strong and weak verbs can no longer be maintained: without going back to ME we cannot tell whether such preterites as *sat, lit, led, held*, infinitives *sit*, *light*, *lead*, *hold*, are strong or weak.

We are therefore compelled to make a new division into **consonantal** and **vocalic**. Consonantal verbs are those which form their preterites and pret. participles by adding *d* or *t*, such as *called, looked, heard, burnt*, infinitives *call, look, hear, burn*. Vocalic verbs are those which form their preterites or pret. participles by vowel-change without the addition of any consonant, except that the pret. partic. of some of these verbs adds *-en*: *sang, sung; bind, bound; run, ran, run—drive, drove, driven; speak, spoke, spoken; see, saw, seen*. Under the vocalic verbs we must also include the **invariable** verbs: *let, let, let; cast, cast, cast*. **Mixed** verbs show a mixture of consonantal and vocalic inflection: *crew, crew, crowded; throw, threw, thrown*.

The great majority of verbs belong to the regular consonantal conjugation, their pret. and pret. partic. ending *being—*

a. *(-id) after (t) and (d)*: *delighted, nodded*.

b. *(-d) after the other voice sounds*: *played, raised, saved, turned, dragged*.

c. (-t) after the other breath consonants: *hissed, pushed,ooked*.

Compared with these verbs those of the vocalic class must be regarded as irregular, although many of them fall under more or less uniform classes. There are also irregular consonantal verbs, such as *burn, burnt*, compared with the regular *turn, turned*. There is also a small class of specially irregular or **anomalous** verbs, such as *be, was, been*, some of which—mostly comprising the old preterite-present verbs—are defective, such as *(I) can, could*, which has no infinit. or participles. The irregular verbs therefore comprise all the vocalic and anomalous verbs together with some of the consonantal, all regular verbs being consonantal. All newly formed verbs are conjugated consonantally, the consonantal inflections being the only living or productive ones.

The following are the inflections of the consonantal verb *call* and the vocalic verb *see* in Spoken English:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflection</th>
<th><strong>call</strong></th>
<th><strong>see</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Indic.</strong></td>
<td>1 call</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 call</td>
<td></td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 calls</td>
<td></td>
<td>sees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plur.</strong></td>
<td>call</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Subj.</strong></td>
<td>called</td>
<td>saw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. (Indic. and Subj.)</strong></td>
<td>called</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imper.</strong></td>
<td>call</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infin.</strong></td>
<td>call</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Partic. and Gerund</strong></td>
<td>calling</td>
<td>seeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. Partic.</strong></td>
<td>called</td>
<td>seen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irregular Verbs in Modern English.

In the following sections the vowel-changes are arranged in the alphabetic order of the vowels of the preterites in their phonetic spelling, to which the alphabetic order of the vowels of the infinitive is subordinated, thus
(ei . . . e) as in say, said, and then (ij . . . e), as in flee, fled, precede (io . . . ao), and this is followed by (uw . . . o), etc. Forms that occur only in the higher literary language are marked * . Obsolete forms are marked f.

**CONSONANTAL VERBS.**

**With Vowel-change.**

Verbs which take the regular consonantal inflection (i, t), but with vowel-change:

*Vowel-change (ei . . . e).*

586. say, said (sei, sed). OE weak I b scegan, sæge, sægd. In ME the r^-forms of this verb were preserved in South- Thames English; but in the North-Thames dialects the g- forms segest, sggep, imper. s$ge were extended to the original r^-forms: z sete, infin. sein, seien, pres. partic. seiende. These became the Standard ME forms also. The OE pret. sæged became saide in ME. In ME saide became (sedi), which was shortened to (sed); and the same shortening took place in says. All the other OE -verbs show a similar extension of the g-forms in ME, so that the OE infinitives liegan, liegan, bygian appear in ME as lie (ME lieen), lay (ME leien), buy (ME bien), which correspond phonetically to the OE imperatives liege, lige, byge.

*Vowel-change (ij . . . e).*

587. flee, fled (flij, fled). OE strong VII fleon (Oldest English fléohan), fleah, plur. flugon, pret. partic. flogen. There was another OE verb of the same class, some of whose forms were identical with forms of fléan, namely flégan 'fly,' flégs (flægs), pret. plur. flugon, pret. partic. flogen. As the two verbs were similar in meaning also, they were frequently confounded in Late West-Saxon, the distinctive forms of flégan being used in the sense of 'flee' as well as in that of 'fly,' and fléon being used in the sense of 'flee.' This confusion has lasted to the present day, in as far as many modern writers use fly consistently in the sense of 'run away.' In ME the confusion between the two verbs was often avoided by using the weak verb flöden = OE flödan (flædan) 'flee,' 'be at high tide' (said of the sea) from OE flöd 'flood' in the sense of 'flee,' its pret. flöde coming gradually to be regarded as the pret. of the old strong fléon, fléon. This development was probably helped by the Scandinavian weak verb flyn 'flee,' pret. flyn.

588. creep, crept (krijp, krept). OE strong VII crépan, créap, crepen. In ME crepen developed a weak pret. crepte by the side of the strong crép. leap, leapt; sleep, slept; sweep, swept; weep, wept have developed in a similar way from the OE strong verbs hléapan, hléop I; slæpan, slip I; swap an, sweop I; wépan, wéop I. OE swépan became by regular change swepen in ME; the form swept is the result of confusion with other verbs of similar meaning.

*Vowel-change (io . . . ao).*

589. hear, heard (hir, haad). OE weak I hiran, hierde, Anglian hirian, hörde, whence ME hirian, herd with the usual shortening. In Early ME the (e) of the pret. was regularly broadened to (a) before the (e), giving (haiar, hard). The spelling heard shows the not unfrequent lengthening of ME e before (e)-combinations, which, of course, preserved it from the change into (a): (herd) was then shortened to (herd), whence the Present English (haad).
590. shoe, shod (juw., jod). OE sóian, scóde, gösCdd. ME sóin, pret. partic. sód. The MnE shortening is parallel to that in red compared with rood, both = OE röd, shod is now used chiefly as an adjective, shoe being conjugated regularly shoed.

591. sell, sold (sel, sold). OE weak sgllan, sealde, Anglian sålde 'give.' ME sellen, sglde, isgld. In OE the meaning 'sell' was only occasionally implied in the more general one of 'give,' as in sglan wip weorpe 'give for a value (price) = 'sell.' So also toll, told from OE weak I b tllan.

With t instead of d.

592. burn, burnt. In OE the intransitive 'burn' was expressed by the strong verb III þirnian, Late West-Saxon ðyrnan, Anglian ðornan, pret. þorn, burn, pret. plur. þurnon, pret. partic. þurnen; the transitive by the weak ðornan, bærnde. In these two verbs the r had been transposed, the Germanic forms being *bríman, *bránjan, with which compare the Scandinavian strong bríma, pret. bránum, pret. partic. bránum, and the weak brýna, bṛ̌νa. In ME the originally transitive and intransitive forms came to be used indiscriminately in both senses, the weak forms gradually getting the upper hand. In Standard ME the Northern—originally Scandinavian—form þornen, bránte was used both transitively and intransitively, the strong Northern form—also originally Scandinavian—þíman occurring less frequently, generally in its original intransitive sense. The other dialects show a great variety of forms: Early Southern þornen, þrinen, þornen, Early Midland þornen, þrinen, þrinen, Early Northern þrín (transitive as well as intrans.), þrín. The infin. þurnen seems to occur first in Late Midland; the n is probably the result of the influence of the lip-consonant l on the following eo of Anglian lornan. The pret. þrënt survived for some time in Early MnE.

593. dwell, dwelt. ME dwollen, dwelte from Scandinavian dyefa 'remain.'

594. learn, learnt. OE leomian, leornode; ME lern(i)en, lernde, later lernte. The adjective lerned preserves the fuller form of the pret. partic. So also pen, pent; smelt, smelt; spell, spilt; spill, spilt from the OE weak verbs pgnan, smgllan 'strike,' spellian 'relate,' spilian 'destroy.'

595. spoil, spoilt. ME spoilen, despoilen from Old French spolier, despoiller [from Latin spoliare 'strip,' 'plunder'] was associated with spillen from OE spíllan, so that when spíllan took the special sense 'waste liquids/' spill/' spoilen took the old meaning of spíllan, namely 'destroy,' and formed a pret. spoilt on the analogy of spille. spoilt in the sense of 'plunder' is regular.

596. feel, felt from OE félan (fælan), félde. kneel, knelt from ME kneten, knelte, knelt of Scandinavian origin.

With t instead of d and Vowel-change.

Vowel-change (ij . . i) .

597. (be)reave, *bereft, bereaved. OE (be)réafian, réafode. ME bṛ̌fjan, bṛ̌fte, bṛ̌fte, bṛ̌fte, the last being the Standard ME form.

598. cleave, cleft 'divide,' 'adhere.' OE strong VII clesfian, cleı̈f, clesfian 'divide'; ME clesfian, clyf, clyfen. OE weak III clęfian, clęfian 'adhere'; ME clęfien, clyfe.
ACCIDENCE.

There was also a strong verb VI in OE clifan 'adhere,' ME cliven pret. partic. cliven 'adhere, 'climb.' In ME cliff, Northern cliff, originally pret. of cliven, was used also as pret. of cliven, whose pret. partic. cliven had in Late ME the same vowel as cliff. A new weak pret. clefie was then formed from cliven. In the Earliest MnE cleve 'divide' kept (ii) = ME close, but was soon confused with cleave (klev) 'adhere,' 'climb;' in ME clgif, Northern claf, originally pret. of cliven, was used also as pret. of eleven, whose pret. partic. clgven had in Late ME the same vowel as clgif. A new weak pret. clefte was then formed from eleven. In the Earliest MnE cleve 'divide' kept (ii) = ME close, but was soon confused with cleave, (klev) 'adhere,' Early ME clevien, Late ME clgvien, so that it was written with ea. The MnE pret. cleave may be regarded either as the descendant of the OE pret. claf or as the ME pret. cliff (from OE cliff) levelled under the pret. partic. cliven. The other MnE pret. clave is of course the Northern form of OE claf. The following are the forms of the two verbs in MnE:—

clave 'divide'; clave, belave, cleft; cloven, cleft, cleaved,
clave 'adhere'; clave, claven; clave, cleaved; cleaved.

599. deal, dealt (dijl, delt). OE dælan, dælde. leave, left; mean, meant from OE læfan, læde; næfan, mætan.

600. dream, dreamt, dreamed (drijm, dremt, drijmd). OE dreman, Anglian driman 'modulate' ['dream' 'melody,' 'joy']. The ME drem, drem(i), drem(i)te got the meaning 'dream' from the Scandinavian drijma 'dream.' In Early MnE the verb was levelled under the noun dream, the ME pret. being however kept in spelling—drem—as well as pronunciation by the side of the new pret. dreamed. The spelling drem(i)te is, of course, a blending of drem and dreamed.

601. lean, leant, leant (lijn, lent, lijnd). OE hlénan (hlínan), hlénde; ME lynen (lynten), lynde. The pret. leant comes from another OE verb meaning 'to lean,' namely hlínan, hlénde; ME lynen, lend, lenve.
a new pret. *lende, lente* was formed on the analogy of *senden*, *sente*, etc.

**With Consonant-loss.**

607. **make, made.** OE *macian*, *macie*. ME *makien*, *makide*, *made*, Late ME *maken*, contracted *måde*, *(i)måde.*

**With Consonant-loss and Vowel-change.**

608. **clothe, clad, clothed.** OE *clāpian*, *clāped* [clāp 'cloth']. Scandinavian *klæpia*, *klæpdi*, whence ME *clāpen*, *cladde*, Northern *cledde*, as well as *clāped*.

**Vowel-change (ou . . æ).**

609. **catch; caught.** ME *caçchen*, *caçhte* from Old French *cachier* [Low Latin *captiår* = Latin *captiår*, a frequentative of capere 'seize']. *Cachier* is probably a North-East French (Picard) form; the Parisian form being *chacier* (Modern French *chasser*), whence the MnE *chace*, *chase*. ME *caçchen* having the same meaning and the same termination as *lacchen*, *laughte* from OE *Iceccan*, *gerhte* 'seize/ catch' [compare MnE *latch*], naturally formed its preterite in the same way.

610. **distract; distraught, distracted.** OE *syrctian* 'stretch,' pret. *streath, streythe*, appears in ME in the form of *streachen*, *strought, streighte*, the pret. partic. *streight* being still kept in MnE as an adjective—*streight* literally 'stretched out.' In Late ME the Latin *distractus* was imported as an adj. *distract* (French *distract*), which was made into *distrought* by the influence of *strought*. When *distract* was made into a verb in Early MnE, *distrought* was naturally regarded as its participle. Through further confusion *strought* itself was used in the sense of 'distracted,' and a new partic. *distrought* was formed on the analogy of *boast.*

**Vowel-change (aa . . a).**

611. **work; wrought, worked** (waak, rot). OE *wyrcan*, Anglian *wyrcan*, the corresponding noun being *weorc*; Late West-Saxon *wrec*, Anglian *wrec*, which in ME influenced the verb. The ME forms are: Southern *wirchen*, *wrchien* with the usual change of *we* to *wr*, Midland *werken*, *werken*, Northern *wirk*. The OE pret. *werht* underwent the usual r-transposition in NE, becoming *zroht*, MnE *wrought*, which in ordinary speech survives only as an adjective, as in *wrought iron*.

**Vowel-change (i . . o).**

612. **bring; brought** (brirj, brot). OE *bringan*, *brohte*.

613. **think; thought.** In OE there were two weak I a verbs of allied form and meaning: *pgncan*, *pohte* 'think'; *pyncan*, *puhie* 'seem,' which was impersonal, *me pynch* 'it seems to me' having much the same meaning as *ic pynce*. In ME *pgncan* became regularly *penchen* in South-Thames English, *penten* in North-Thames English; and *pyncan* became *punchen*, *punchen* in South-Thames English, *punchen* in North-Thames English. The pret. *pohte* was soon disused, *po(h)ute* taking its place: *he pohte* 'he thought,' *him pohte* 'it seemed to him.' In Standard ME the two verbs were still kept apart in the infinitive and present tenses, which had the Midland forms *penken*, *i penke*; *pynken*, *mi pynke*, etc.; but in the compound *bipyncen* 'consider' = OE *be pangcan*, the latter had already begun to encroach. In Northern *pynk* completely supplanted *penken*, as in MnE. Hence MnE *think* is historically =OE *pyncan*, and its pret. *thought* =OE *pohte*, the pret. of the lost *pyncan.*
Vowel-change (ie, o).

614. seek; sought; beseech; besought. OE sécan (sæcan), sohle. ME South-Thames séchen, bisechen, North-Thames siken, biseken. The MnE seek and beseech are therefore from different dialects of ME. Shakespeare has the Manx form not only in seek, but also in beseech.

615. reach; fraught, reached. OE råcan, ræhte. ME ræchen, ra(u)ghte, Northern rughie. So also teach, taught from OE weak tæcan 'show.'

INVARIABLE VERBS.

(aa).

616. cast. ME casten from Scandinavian weak kasta, kastan. In Early MnE there is also a regular pret. casted.

(ai).

617. dight 'adorn' as in storied window richly dight (Milton). OE díhtan 'arrange,' appoint' from the Latin dictare.

(a).

618. cut. ME cutten.

619. shut. OE scódan, scéadan, scéd 'separate,' a meaning still preserved in the noun watershed. ME schutten formed a weak pret. schutte, schadde, and developed the new meaning 'separate into drops,' 'shed.' In MnE the short vowel of the pret. was extended to the pres., etc., as in let.

620. thrust. ME prusten from Scandinavian prysta.

(e).

621. let. OE strong I lèt, lét, lèten. ME leten, pret. strong let, and weak lette from *létte. In MnE the short vowel of this weak pret. was extended to the infin., etc. The obsolete verb let 'hinder,' still preserved in the phrase let or

§ 614. [ACCIDENCE.]

§ 619.] VERBS: IRREGULAR. 169

hindrance, is the OE weak lýtta, lytte, connected with lat 'slow,' late adv. 'late.'

622. set. OE sittan, sítte, connected with the strong verb V sittan, pret. sät.

623. shed. OE strong I stódan, stédan, stéd 'separate,' a meaning still preserved in the noun watershed. ME schitten formed a weak pret. schitten, schutte, and developed the new meaning 'separate into drops,' 'shed.' In MnE the short vowel of the pret. was extended to the pres., etc., as in let.

624. shred. OE stríedian, stríadode. ME schrëden, schredde, the short vowel being afterwards extended to the pres., etc. So also spread (spred) from weak OE sprædan.

(oo).

625. burst. OE strong III bérstan, bærst, bursten, geborsten. The u of burst is the result of the influence of the lip-consonant b on the oo of ME beorslen, as in burn (592), the u being afterwards extended to the pret. partic. bursten, which survived in Early MnE.

626. hurt. ME hurten, hurten.

(i).

627. hit. ME hiten from Scandinavian hitta 'find.'

628. knit. OE cníttan 'tie,' cnotta 'knot.' The invariable pret.-form is now preserved only as an adjective in well-knit, etc. Otherwise the pret.-form is regular—knitted.

629. quit. ME quiten pret. quitte from Old French quitter from Latin quitus. In MnE the shortened vowel of the pret. was extended to the rest of the verb. The derivative requite keeps its original length, having a pret. partic.
accipit in Early MnE. acquit is invariable in Early MnE. All these verbs are now regular.

630. rid. ME redden, reddien, reddan 'rescue,' 'separate fighters' is apparently a blending of OE hréddan 'rescue' and Scandinavian réðja pret. reðda 'clear away.'

631. slit. OE strong VI silitan, slit, slitien. ME has both strong siliten, pret. partic. sliten, and a weak verb slitien, which may have existed in OE.

632. split. ME spalleten, of which Early MnE spalte is probably a Northern form. splet seems to have been made into split by the influence of slit.

633. cost. ME costen from Old French coster (Modern French coûter) from Latin consūtāre.

634. put. ME putten.

VOCALIC VERBS.

Vowel-change (ai . . au).

635. bind; bound. OE strong III bindan, band, bunden. The older pret. partic. is still preserved in bounden duty. So also grind, ground; wind, wound from OE strong III grindan, windan.

636. find; found. OE strong III findan, fund—more generally weak finde—funden. ME pret. find, founde.

Vowel-change (ai . . u).

637. strike; struck. OE strong VI strican, stric, strik 'move about; 'touch lightly.' ME striken, strik (Northern

638. hang; hung, hanged. OE strong I hōn (from earlier *hōhan), hōng, hangen, the g being a weakening of the h of the infin., where ð = Germanic an (609), so that hōn = Germanic *hanan. There was also a weak intransitive hangian, hangode, hōn itself being used transitively. In Early ME the consonantal variation in the strong verb was soon levelled: sometimes the infinitive form was extended to the pret. partic. which was made into (a)hdn; but afterwards the ng-forms got the upper hand, being supported by the weak verb hangien, and a new strong infin. hangen was formed, pret. hōing, pret. partic. hangen. In some dialects the pret. was shortened to hōng with short close (e), which being an unfamiliar sound in ME was made into i. This new pret. hōng, which is frequent in some Midland dialects, was made into an infin. in Northern by the analogy of the bind-class, with pret. hang, which afterwards made its way into the Standard dialect in the form of hōng parallel to sing 'sang.' A pret. partic. hang was further developed on the analogy of sing, sang, sung, and hang was then extended to the pret. sing, in the same way as clung, etc. (565), the older infin. hang being preserved in the Standard dialect. In MnE the strong form hang is both transitive and intransitive, hanged being used only transitively, contrary to the OE usage.

Vowel-change (i . . u).

639. dig; dug, *digged. ME diggen, diggede, equivalent to OE digtan [die 'ditch'], of which it seems to be a
modification by some analogical influence. The vocalic pret. dug developed itself towards the end of the Early MnE period; it is not found in the Bible.

640. cling; clung. OE strong III clingan, clang, clung 'wither.' ME clingen, cling, clung 'shriveled,' 'adhere,' 'hang.' So also slink, slunk; spin, spun; sting, stung; swing, swung; win, won; wring, wrung from OE strong III slincan, spinnan, stingan, slingan, gewinnan, weingen.

641. fling; flung. ME strong III flingen from weak Scandinavian flgngja [compare ME wing from Scandinavian v§ngr flingen was, of course, made strong on the analogy of sting and the other strong verbs in -ing.

642. sling; slung. ME strong III slingan from Scandinavian slangva, which passed through slengen into slingan, and then became strong in the same way as fling. The pret. slang occurs in the Bible.

643. stick; stuck; tsticked 'pierce,' 'adhere.' OE stician (stician), sticide 'pierce,' 'adhere.' ME strong V stoken, stik, stoken and stoken [like spoken = OE spoken] 'pierce,' 'imprison,' which may represent an OE strong verb. stuck may owe its u to the influence of strong.

644. string; strung. This verb is a MnE formation from the ME noun string from Scandinavian stringja, with the usual change of Scandinavian -ing into -ing. We keep the older consonantal inflexion in stringed instruments.

Vowel-change (v. . æ. . æ).

645. run; ran; run. OE strong III irnan, irnun (eornun), Late West-Saxon yrun, pret. yrn, arn, pret. partic. ornun, with the same transposition of the r as in burn, the older forms being preserved in gerinnan 'coagulate,' literally 'run together,' gerun, gerunnen. The ME verb was influenced by the two Scandinavian verbs, the strong irnun, ranun, urrunen and the weak yrna, yrndi; the Standard ME forms being indeed entirely Scandinavian: yrmen, ran, yrmen. The Early Southern forms of the infin. are urun, eornun, urunen probably = urunen from Late West-Saxon yrmen. The infin. run appears in Northern by the side of the Scandinavian rin. The u of the infin. seems to have been originally a Southern development out of urun, perhaps by the influence of burn.

Vowel-change (i. . æ).

646. sit; sæt. OE strong V j-verb sitan, set, selin. ME siten, set, selin and also silen with the vowel of the infin. From the ME partic. siten is derived the obsolete MnE pret. and pret. partic. sit, which made the verb invariable. The obsolete MnE pret. sete is due to the analogy of came, spoke, etc., the short set being kept up at the same time by the short vowel of the infin. sit.

647. spit; spat. There were in OE two weak verbs of the same meaning spitan, spile and spætun, spætæn, spöltæ, both of which were kept in ME, where the pret. spælke became regularly spôte. The MnE spit, spat is, therefore, a mixture of two distinct verbs.

Vowel-change (i. . æ. . æ).

648. begin; began; begun. OE strong beginan. So also drink, drank, drunk(en); shrink, shrunk, shrunk; sing, sang, sung; sink, sank, sunk(en); spring, sprang, sprung; stink, stank, stank; swim, swam, swum
from OE strong III drincan, singican, singan, sincan, springan, scinnan, swimman.

649. ring; rang; rung. OE (k)ringan, which is apparently weak.

Vowel-change (i . . e . . i-n).

650. (for)bid; -bad; -bidden. OE strong V j-verb biddan, bed, boden ‘pray’, ‘ask’; strong VII bædan, bæd, boden ‘offer’, ‘command’. The corresponding ME forms are bidden, bad, lyden and—by the analogy of the infin.—bidden; bidden, bid, byden. But already in Early ME the two verbs began to be confused. bidden in the special sense of ‘ask to one’s house’, ‘invite’ soon got confused with bidden, which developed the meaning ‘offer an invitation’, the confusion being aided by the weak verb lyen( )-en=OE bodan ‘announce’—itself connected with bædan. Hence even in Early ME we find bidden used in the sense of ‘invited.’ It was still more natural to soften down the command expressed by boden by the substitution of the milder bidden. The pret. bad soon supplanted lyen by taking to itself the meaning ‘commanded,’ except in the emphatic forbiden, which in Standard ME only rarely has the pret. forbiden instead of forbien. The following are the Standard ME forms—bidden, boden; bad; byden, byden.

In the transition to Modern English the biden forms were gradually extended till they entirely supplanted the others. The relation between the two forms bad and bade is the same as that between sat and sat (662). In Early Modern English the pret. participle was often shortened to bid, which was used also as a pret., so that the verb became invariable.

Vowel-change (ij . . e).

651. bleed; bled. OE weak blædan (blædan), blæde. [blæd ‘blood’]. So also breed, bred; feed, fed; lead, led; meet, met; read, read (rijd, red); speed, sped from the OE weak bre~dan, fedan, lædan, metan, rédan, spædan.

Vowel-change (ij . . e . . ij-n).

652. eat; ate; eaten. OE strong V, with exceptional (Germanic) lengthening in the pret. sing., ætan, æt, pret. plur. æton, pret. partic. æten. ME pen, ét, at, pen, the pret. at being of course due to the influence of the other verbs of the same class.

Vowel-change (ou . . e).

653. hold; held. OE strong I healdan, haldan; hild; gehælden, gehælden ME hildan; hild, hild, hild, hilden. We still preserve the fuller form of the pret. partic. in behælden.

Vowel-change (ai . . ei . . ei-n).

654. fall; fell; fallen. OE strong V j-verb fællan, fellan; fællan, fællan, fællan. ME fallen; fet, fet, fet; fallen.

Vowel-change (ai . . ei . . ei-n).

655. lie; lay; lain. OE strong V j-verb liegan, lieg, liegen, imper. sing. lieg, etc. The ME development of this verb is analogous to that of the other e~g-verbs (650). In Early Southern the infin. liegan was preserved by the side of the imperative lie; but in the North-Thames dialects it was leveled under the e~g-forms, becoming lie, lain. The Standard ME forms are lain, lat, pret. partic. lain, lain.
656. **come; came; come.** OE strong IV, with anomalous weak vowel in the pres. and infin. and exceptional extension of the vowel of the pret. plur. to the pret. sing.: *cuman; cwom, cwm; e(wo)mon; cumen.* The pret. *cóm* was preserved in Standard ME, but was partially supplanted by the new formation *cam* on the analogy of the strong verb IV *nimen* 'take,' *nam, nōmen.* *Cam* underwent the usual lengthening into *came* in MnE.

657. **give; gave; given.** OE *giefan* (*gefan*); *geaf* *Vowel-change (ai . . i-n).*

658. **light; lit, lighted.** OE weak *lihtan, lihte* 'illuminate' and 'make light,' 'alleviate' [*loht adj. 'light of colour' and 'light of weight*]. There was a third OE weak verb *lihtan, lihtan* 'alight from a horse.' The MnE verb *light* in *light on* must be referred to this last. The consonantal preterite-form *lit* does not, of course, appear till *light* had become *lit,* that is, in the MnE period, when it arose from imitation of *liht, lit, etc.* The verb *alight* still keeps the older consonantal inflexion, which is also used in the other verbs.

Vowel-change (ai . . i-n).

659. **bite; bit; bitten.** OE strong VI *biotam.* The shortened pret. partic. is still kept in the phrase *the biter bit.*

660. **chide; chid; chidden.** OE weak *chidan, ñëde.* ME *chiden, chidde.* In Early MnE the verb was made strong

661. **beat; beat; beaten.** OE strong I *beitan, bët,* *bëten.*

662. **shone; shone.** OE strong VI *scinan,* *sôm,* *sîmen.*

663. **(for)get; forgot; forgotten, got.** In OE the strong V verb *äftan, gytan* (*gelan*); *geat* (*gæt*); *gielen,* *gyten* (*geten*) occurs only in the compounds *begietan* 'get/' or 'understand,' *forgietan* 'forget' and a few others. In ME *begiten, begeten* was shortened to *giten,* *geten* through the influence of the Scandinavian *get,* *gæt,* *gatinn* 'get,' or rather the Scandinavian word was substituted for it.

664. **tread; trod; trodden.** OE strong V *tredan,* *træd,* *treden.* ME *trgden,* *tragden,* *trlegden.* ME *treden,* *tragden,* *trlegden* and—by the analogy of *broken,* etc.—*trgden,* *treden.*

Vowel-change (ij . . o . . o-n).

665. **seethe; tsod, seethed; sodden, tsod, seethed.** OE strong VII *séopan,* *seap,* *soden.*

666. **shoot; shot.** OE strong VII *scolan,* *sëot,* *sèlen.*

Vowel-change (uw . . o).

667. **get; forgot; forgotten.** In MnE the strong V verb *gietan,* *gytan* (*gelan*); *gæt* (*get*); *gielen,* *gyten* (*geten*) occurs only in the compounds *begietan* 'get,' *understand,' *forgietan* 'forget' and a few others. In ME *begiten, begeten* was shortened to *giten,* *geten* through the influence of the Scandinavian *get,* *gæt,* *gatinn* 'get,' or rather the Scandinavian word was substituted for it.

668. **tread; trod; trodden.** OE strong V *tredan,* *træd,* *treden.* ME *trgden,* *tragden,* *trlegden* and—by the analogy of *broken,* etc.—*trgden,* *treden.*

Vowel-change (ij . . o . . o-n).
ACCIDENTE.

Standard ME scheden, schift, schoten. There is also an intrans. schuden in ME, whose "o" probably = "u" from OE "eo," as in choose (680), which afterwards became "ou" and was written "oo" in Early MnE.

Vowel-change (ai...ou).

687. climb; +clomb, climbed. OE strong III climmen, clammen, clammen, and also climban, clam, clamben, although the latter is found only in late texts. ME climmen, clam, clammen and climben, clomb (clamb), clomben.

Vowel-change (ai...ou...i-n).

688. (a)bide; +bode, +bid, bided; +biden, +bid, bided. OE strong VI bidan "wait," abidan "endure." ME (a)biden, biden, there being also a weak pret. abidde.

689. drive; drove, +draise; driven. OE strong VI drifan. So also ride, rode, ridden; rise, rose, risen; shrive, +shrove, shrived, shriven; smite, smote, smitten; stride, strode, +stridden, strode; write, wrote, written from OE strong VI ridan, risan, sfrisan, smitan "smear," stridan, writan.

690. strive; streve; striven. ME strong VI striven, strif, sfrisan, which is the Old French estriver [from Old Low-German strif 'strife'] made into a strong verb on the analogy of driven.

691. thrive; throve; thriven. ME thriven from the Scandinavian strong reflexive verb frifisk.

Vowel-change (ai...ou).

692. wake; woken, wak, waken. OE strong II wacan, wacen, generally compounded with "on": onwacan, awacan. (on)wacan and the weak kwachsen, wacian 'keep awake.'
679. weave; wove, weaved; woven, weaved.
OE strong V wefan, weaf, wesn. ME weven, weaf, weven, weven.
Vowel-change (uw... ou... ou-n).

680. choose; chose; chosen.
OE strong VII cœsan, cœn, coren. ME chsen, chgs, chosen. There was also a West-Midland inlin. chosen with the regular West-Midland change of OE eo into œ. In Early MnE (tjiuz) became (tjuuz), which was written phonetically choose, although the older spelling chuse survived till the end of the last century. chose also occurs in Early MnE.
Vowel-change (ai... o).

681. fight; fought.
OE strong III fœhtan (fæhtan); feaht (fæht); fœhten. ME fighten, faught, foughten. In the pret. Early MnE fluctuates between au and ou.
Vowel-change (ei... o).

682. bear; bore, tōre; born(e).
OE strong IV beran, bær, horen. MnE makes a distinction between borne in the sense of French né and borne = 'carried' which did not exist in OE or ME.

683. swear; swore, tšware; sworn.
OE strong j-verb II stpirian, stœr, stœren, stœren, the o of the last form being due to the influence of the preceding u. ME stprian, stœren; stœr; stœr; stœren. stœir is, of course, due to the analogy of lyren, lœr.

684. tear; tore, tʃare; torn.
OE strong IV tæran.

685. wear; wore, tʃare; worn.
OE weak stpirian, supede 'wear clothes.' The vocalic forms were first developed in Early MnE by the analogy of bear.

686. freight; *fraught, freighted.
The Late ME weak verb fraughten [imported from Dutch?] was made into freight in Early MnE by the influence of the synonymous fre, and fraught itself came to be regarded as the pret. of this new verb freight by a vague association with work, wrought, etc. But fraught was still used as a pres. in Early MnE: the good ship . . . and the fraughting souls within her (Shakespeare).
Vowel-change (ai... o... o-n).

687. shear; tʃore, tʃare, sheared; shorn, tʃheared.
OE strong IV tʃirian (ʃiran); tʃær (ʃær); tʃør.

688. see; saw; seen.
OE strong V sëon; sœh (sah); sën (sogen). In Late Northumbrian the adjective sœh=sūn=søerne 'visible' was used as the pret. partic. Early Me sëon, sën; sœh (Southern), sœh, sœh pret. plur. sœwen, sœwen; sëon; pret. partic. sëon, sœn. In Late ME the pret. sing. forms dropped the h by the influence of the pret. plur. and pret. partic., giving së, sœ, sœn, the last being the usual North-Thames form, especially in Northumbrian, which also kept the Old-Northumbrian pret. partic. in the form of sœn. The Standard ME inflections are sœ(n); sëgh, sœ; (i)seen. In MnE the Northern pret. sœn and pret. partic. sœn were introduced into the Standard dialect.
Vowel-change (æ... u).

689. stand; stood.
OE strong II with n inserted in the pres. etc.: stëdan, stûd, stûden.
ACCIDENCE.

§ 690. Vowel-change (ei . . u . . eu-n).

690. forsake; forsook; forsaken. OE strong II forsacan 'renounce,' 'deny.' So also shake, shook, shaken.

691. take; took; taken, *ta'en. ME strong II taken, lok, taken from Scandinavian taka, tók, tókin. In Northern this verb was contracted like make, and the pret. partic. tóken passed into Standard MnE.

Vowel-change (ai . . u . . eu-n).

692. fly; flew; flown. OE strong VII fleogan (flegan, fléan); fléag, fléah (fléh); flugon; flogen. ME flén, flie; flég, fléd—with the same dropping of final h as in sei = OE gesceh—fly; pret. plur. flown, flown (influence of pret. partic.); pret. partic. fléwen. The Early MnE pret. flew (fliu) probably arose in the same way as drew, etc. (573).

Vowel-change (ai . . u . . eu-n).

693. slay; slew; slain. OE strong II sléan (from sleahan); slog, sloh; slagen, slágen. ME Southern slá, Midland slá, Northern slá; sloh. Late ME slough, sléow = (sláun); pret. partic. sláwen, sléen, sláin. In MnE, the ai of the pret. partic. was extended to the infin., and the ow of the pret. underwent the usual analogical change into ew. The archaic forms sla = slá, pret. sláu still lingered in Early MnE.

Vowel-change (ou . . u . . ou-n).

694. blow; blew; blown, blowed. OE strong I bléowan 'blow' (of wind), biléow, bléowen and bléowan 'bloom,' biléow, bléowen. ME biléowen, biléow, biléowen and bléowen, biléow, bléowen.

VERBS: MIXED.

§ 701. VERBS: MIXED.

695. crow; crew, crowed; tcrown, crowed. OE strong I crwán, crwina, crwéan. grow, grew, grown; know, knew, known from OE strong I grówan, grówean.

Vowel-change (o . . u . . ou-n).

696. draw; drew; drawn. OE strong II dragán; drég, dréh; dragen.

Mixed Verbs.

697. There are several verbs which have a strong pret. partic. in -en with a regular consonantal pret. Some of these are old strong verbs which have become partially consonantal; but others are weak verbs which have taken the partic. ending -en by the influence of old strong verbs which they happen to resemble. In the following list the latter class are marked J.

698. go; went; gone. OE strong I gáan, gágen; gæng, gáde (weak); géong, gágon. ME gá(n), gágen; gée, wéde; gá(n), gágon. In ME the longer form gang was gradually restricted to the Northern dialect. The curt-tailed Southern pret. partic. gá is still preserved in the adverb age = OE dagán 'passed' (of time).

699. grave, graved; graven, graved. OE strong II gráfan, gráf, gráfen.

700. hew; hewed; hewn, hewed. OE strong I hæwan, héw, híwan.

701. load, load; loaded, loaded; laden, loaded. OE strong II hladen, híld, híladen, híladen. The MnE change of lade into load is through the influence of the noun lead, ME lade = OE lát (fern.) 'leading,' 'way,' connected with hádan 'lead,' which had also the meaning
ACCIDENCE.

§ 702. 'carry,' so that in ME lyde came to mean 'load,' and was at last confused with the verb laden.

702. melt; melted; molten, melted. OE strong III melten. molten is now used only as an adjective.

703. mow; mowed; mown, mowed. OE strong I mæwan, miow, miwem.

704. rive; rived; riven, rived. ME strong VI riven, rif, riven from the Scandinavian rifa.

705. saw; sawed; sawn, sawed. ME weak sawe(r)en. MnE sawn by the analogy of drawn.

706. shape; shaped; shapen, shaped. OE strong II sceppan, sceppan (scgppan); scop; scæpen, scæpen. In ME this verb was influenced by the Scandinavian verb skapa, skap.

707. shave; shaved; shaven, shaved. OE strong II scéfan, seif, scæfan.

708. show; showed; shown, showed. OE weak stæawan, stæwode 'survey,' 'look at.' ME sceaw(n), shew(n), Northern shew. Early MnE shaw and shew. shown by the analogy of known, etc.

709. sow; sowed; sown, sowed. OE strong I sæwan, sere, siséwn.

710. strow; strewed; strown, strowed. OE weak strewian, strewian. ME strewen, střeven, strown, strowen. strowen by the analogy of becow.

711. swell; swelled; swollen, swelled. OE strong III swellian.

ISOLATED FORMS.

712. Some obsolete verbs occur only in isolated forms, namely quoth, hight, iclept, wont.

713. quoth. OE strong V cweþan, cweþ, cweðan, greuden 'say.' In ME the strong consonant of the infin. was kept throughout: cweþan, cweþ, cweþen; so also bicweþen 'bequeath,' which in MnE is consonantal—bequeathed. In Late ME the simple cweþan was gradually disused except in the pret. sing. As cweþ was often unstressed in such combinations as cweþ he, it developed a weak form cweod, quod through the regular rounding of unstressed a into o after a lip-consonant, as in OE Óswold=earlier Oswald. The explanation of the d is that cweþ he etc. were made into (kwajrē) which became (kwāēē, kwoēē); and when (kwoē) was detached and received strong stress—as it naturally would—the final (ō), being an unfamiliar sound in strong syllables, was changed into (d). The form quoth is a blending of strong quath and weak quod.

714. hight 'is named, called,' 'was called,' ME highte is a blending of the OE passive form hāte (478) and hāh, the active pret. of the same verb hātan.

715. iclept = ME iclepod, OE iclepōd 'called' the pret. partic. of the weak verb iclepian, iclepian.

716. wont 'accustomed' = OE gewunod, pret. partic. of the weak verb gewunian [gewuna 'custom,' 'habit.]

ANOMALOUS VERBS.

717. Most of the MnE verbs that we class as anomalous are old preterite-present verbs. Two of these preterite-present verbs—dare and owe = OE dearr, ág—have been made regular in certain meanings. The original inflections of these verbs have been much curtailed in MnE, most of them having only the inflections of the finite present and preterite. The only one which has an infin. is dare, which seems to have taken it from the regularly inflected verb dare. Two of
the old preterite-present verbs—must and ought—occur now only in the OE preterite forms, which have taken the place of the OE present mōt and āg, so that these verbs are incapable of marking the distinction between pres. and pret.

§ 718. can, canst; could, couldst. OE cunn, canst, plur. cunnan; pret. cūpe; infin. cūnān ‘know.’ ME can, canst, plur. cūnen, can; cūpe, coude; infin. cūnen. coude probably owes its d to the influence of wolde and schulde (§723, 724). In Early MnE coud(e) it was made into could on the analogy of should and would=OE wolde, wolde.

§ 719. dare, darest, (he) dare, *dare; durst; infin. daren. OE dearr, dearst, durron; dorste; ME dar, dår (as in the pret. bar), darsl; dorste, durste with the u of OE durron; infin. durren, dären, of which the former represents the probable OE infin. durran, the latter being a new-formation from dår. In MnE dare in the transitive sense of ‘challenge’ has become quite regular: he dared him to do it. The intransitive pres. partic. daring is used only as an adjective.

§ 720. may, mayst; might, mightst. OE mæg, pu meaht (iæht), miht, plur. magon; pret. meahte (incehte) mihte ‘be able.’ [Compare mægen, meaht, miht ‘power,’ ‘force.’] The ME forms seem to have been influenced by another OE preterite-present verb of similar meaning, namely dēag, dēah ‘avail’ plur. dēgon; pret. dēhte; infin. dēgan. The ME forms are: may, miht, and, very late, mayst, plur. mawen, mowen, moun; pret. mawte, miht, mawe.

§ 721. *mote (must); must. OE mōt, mōst, mōton; mōste ‘may.’ ME mōt, mōst, mōten; mōde. The pres. survived only as an archaism in Early MnE: as fair as fair mote be (Spenser). Already in ME the pres. was used in the sense of the pres., and in Early MnE this usage became

§ 722. (owe); ought. OE āg, āh, þā āhte, āht, plur. āgon; pret. āhte, ahte; infin. āgan ‘possess.’ The adjective āgen ‘own’ is an old pret. partic. of this verb. From āgen is formed the weak verb āgan, ‘appropriate,’ ‘possess.’ In Early ME ahte developed regularly into a(u)hte, but afterwards ð was introduced from the infin. etc., giving a(u)hte. In ME ðwen in the sense of ‘possess’ soon took regular weak inflection—i ðwen, wé ðwep, etc.—still keeping the older ahte as its pret. The meaning ‘possess’ gradually developed into that of ‘have a debt,’ ‘owe,’ which, again, developed the abstract meaning ‘ought,’ especially in the pret., which by degrees took the function of a pres. in the same way as must (721).

§ 723. shall, shalt; should, shouldst. OE sceal (stec), scealt (stælf), seald; soald, Nordumbrian scald by the analogy of wolde (724)=wolde. ME sclal, schalt, schulen, schulen (by the analogy of schulen); scholde, schulde (by the influence of schulen).

§ 724. will, wilt; would, wouldst; imper. will. This verb was in OE originally a strong subjunctive preterite, with which pres. indic. forms were afterwards mixed: wille, wille, wille, wille; wolde, wolde, wolde (originally weak!); infin. wille. In OE this verb has, together with several other verbs in very frequent use, special negative forms, the result of contraction with a preceding ne ‘not’: i cnylo, þu cnyll, he cnyll, we cnyll;
ACCIDENCE.

725. wil, nil. One of these negative forms is still preserved in the phrase willy nilly, Early MnE will he, will he = OE wil hē, nēle hē. The ME forms are: wile, wille, wil, will, wille, wille; wolde, wolde, wolde, whose (u) is the result of the influence of the pres. forms wilde, etc., which were probably at first weak forms, in which the w rounded the following vowel and gradually assimilated it to itself.

726. weot; twist. OE wēl, wēst, witon; wiste; wot an; witende. The adjective gewiss "certain" is an old pret. partic. of this verb. ME wot, w gst, witen; infin. witen; pres. partic. wittinge. In Early MnE wot was sometimes made the base of a regular verb: he wotteth, wots, pret. wotted, pres. partic. unwittingly. The old pres. partic. still survives in the adverb unwittingly, and the infin. in the adverb phrase to wit—viz.

The ME adjective iwis—OE gewiss has in MnE been often wrongly divided i wis, as if it were the pronoun i with a verb equivalent to wot, a view which has been further supported in recent times by the chance resemblance of the Modern German equivalent of wot, namely weiss, plur. wissen.

727. need. This verb agrees with the preterite-present verbs in having no s-inflection. The loss of the s—which seems to have begun in the transition from ME to MnE—is apparently partly the result of similarity of meaning to that of the preterite-present verbs; but the absence of the inflectional s is partly due to the verb need ‘require’ being formed directly from the noun need through the ambiguity of such sentences as Early MnE what need all this waste?

We now come to the anomalous auxiliary verbs be, have, do.
of this verb not only by using thou beest as if it were a subjunctive—if thou beest = if thou be—but also by substituting if I was for if I were, etc. was=were was frequent in the last century not only as a subjunctive, but also in the indic. you was. In the present Spoken English the distinction between was and were is strictly maintained, the substitution of was for were being a vulgarism. The subj. pres. is, on the other hand, extinct in the spoken language, except in a few phrases.

730. *have.* The OE infections resemble those of *libban (506):* hæbbe, hafast, hafst, hafst, hafst, plur. habbæþ; subj. hæbbe, hæbben; pret. hafste; imper. hafst, hambæþ; infin. hæbban; partic. hæbbende, gehæfd. In ME the old bb was gradually supplanted by the z> = OE/of the other forms, the v itself being often dropped by contraction. The Standard ME forms are: háve, weak háv, hást, háp, plur. háve(n), háv, hán; pret. hádde; pret. partic. hád. In ME the weak short-vowel forms gradually supplanted the long-vowel ones; but we keep the long-vowel forms in the derivative *behave,* pret. *behaved,* ME *behæven.* The MnE literary forms are: háve, hást, háth, háv; subj. pres. háve; pret. indic. hád, hád; pret. subj. hád; imper. and infin. háve; partic. having, hád. Early MnE still kept the shortened infin. ha, a=ME ham: she might a been (Shakespeare).

731. *do.* OE dō, dōst (dōst), dōþ (dōþ), plur. dōþ; pret. weak dyde; imper. dō, dōþ; infin. dūn; partic. dūnde, gedūn. The mutation in dōst, dōþ is common to all the dialects. In Standard ME the a of the other parts of the verb supplanted the older e: dō, dōst, dōþ, plur. dūn; dūde; imper. dō, dōþ; partic. dūinge dōþ(n). In MnE (un) ME a = ME ä.

PARTICLES.

732. All the OE particles are either *primary* or *secondary.* The secondary particles are formed from other (declinable) parts of speech; thus hām in hē éode hām ‘he went home’ is formed from the masc. noun hām ‘home,’ ‘homestead.’ Primary particles, such as be ‘by,’ swēd ‘so’ are not formed from other parts of speech. There is no strict division between the three classes of particles, most of the prepositions being used also as adverbs, some adverbs being used also as conjunctions. Thus är is a preposition in är dage ‘before day(break),’ an adverb in hē eft was pápa nú hē är was ‘he was pope again as he was before,’ and a conjunction in är þat flod cóm ‘before the flood came.’

733. Some of the particles are *simple,* some *derivative,* such as *uf-an* ‘above,’ some *compound* (group-compounds), such as *bo-nóhan* ‘beneath,’ which is compounded with the preposition bo. The above are primary adverbs. Secondary particles also admit of the same divisions, such as hám, sōflie ‘truly,’ cælne-weg ‘always,’ literally ‘all (the) way.’

Adverb-endings.

734. In OE, adverbs are regularly formed from adjectives by adding -e, a preceding æ being generally changed to á: dēop ‘deeply,’ hærd ‘strongly,’ swētly ‘narrowly,’ lāte ‘slowly,’ ‘with delay’ from dēop, hærd ‘hard,’ ‘strong,’ ‘severe,’ swēt, lāt ‘slow.’ Adjectives with a mutated vowel often have an unmutated vowel in the adverb, as in sōflie ‘gently,’ sōflie ‘luxuriously,’ swētlie ‘sweetly’ corresponding to the adjectives sōflie (sōflie), swētlie (swētlie). The numerous adjec-