

GRAMMAR OF THE

act of bravery," "how brilliant the prize," "however just the complaint."

The word *sooner* may be interposed between the adjective and the noun: "how clear *sooner* this idea of infinity?" "how *remote* *sooner* it may be seen."

Double is separated from its noun by *the*; as "double the distance"—*the* in such cases, never preceding *double*. But *a* precedes *double*, as well as other adjectives.

All and singular or every precede the before the noun in these phrases: "All and singular the articles, clauses and conditions;" "All and every of the articles"—phrases of the law style.

RULE XVI.—Adjectives belong to verbs in the infinitive mode; as, "to see is pleasant;" "to ride is more agreeable than to walk;" "to calumniate is detestable."

Sometimes the adjective belongs to the infinitive in union with another adjective or a noun; as, "to be blind is unfortunate;" "to be a coward is disgraceful." Here the attribute *unfortunate* is the attributive of the first clause, *to be blind*, &c.

RULE XVII.—Adjectives belong to sentences, or whole propositions. Examples:

"Agreeable to this, we read of names being blotted out of God's Book." *Burder's Oriental Customs*, 373.

What is agreeable to this? The answer is found in the whole of the last clause of the sentence.

Antiochus—to verify the character prophetically given of him by Daniel, acted the part of a vile and most detestable person, agreeable to what hath been aforementioned of him." *Prideaux*, part 2, b. 3.

"Her majesty signified her pleasure to the admiral, that as soon as he had left a squadron for Dunkirk, agreeable to what he had proposed, he should proceed with the fleet." *Burchet's Nav. Hist.* 439.

"Independent of his person, his nobility, his dignity, his relations and friends may be urged," &c. *Guthrie's Quantilian*.

"No body can doubt but that these ideas of mixed modes are made by a voluntary collection of ideas put together in the mind, independent from any original patterns in nature." *Locke*, 3. 5.

"Whereupon God was provoked to anger, and put them in mind how, contrary to his directions, they had spared the Canaanites."

Whiston's Josephus, b. 5, ch. 2.

"Greece, which had submitted to the arms, in her turn, subverted the understandings of the Romans, and contrary to that in which these cases commonly happens, the conquerors adopted the opinions and manners of the conquered." *Enfield*, *Hist. Phil.* b. 3, l. 1.

"This letter of Pope Innocent enjoined the payment of tithes to the persons of the respective parishes, where any man inhabited, agreeable to what was afterwards directed by the same Pope in other countries."

Blackstone's Comm. b. 2, ch. 3.

"Agreeable to this, we find some of the Anglo-Saxon ladies were admitted into their most august assemblies."

Henry, *Hist. Brit.* b. 2, ch. 7, and b. 4, ch. 1, sect. 4.

"As all language is composed of significant words variously combined, a knowledge of them is necessary, previous to our acquiring an adequate idea of language."

Encyc. art. Grammar.

"His empire could not be established, previous to the institution of pretty numerous societies."

Smellie, *Phil. Nat. Hist.* 339.

"Suitable to this, we find that men, speaking of mixed modes, seldom imagine, &c."

Locke, 3. 5, 11.

"No such original convention of the people was ever actually held, antecedent to the existence of civil government in that country."

Paley, *Phil.* b. 6, ch. 3.

NOTE.—Writers and critics, misapprehending the true construction of these and similar sentences, have supposed the attribute to belong to the verb, denoting the manner of action. But a little attention to the sense of such passages will be sufficient to detect the mistake. For instance, in the example from Enfield, the attribute *contrary* cannot qualify the verb *adopted*; for the conquerors did not adopt the opinions of the conquered in a manner contrary to what usually happens—the manner of the act is not the thing affirmed, nor does it come into consideration. The sense is this, the fact that the conquerors adopted the opinions and manners of the conquered, was contrary to what commonly happens in like cases. The attribute belongs to the whole sentence or proposition. The same explanation is applicable to every similar sentence.

In consequence of not attending to this construction, our hypercritics, who are very apt to distrust popular practice, and substitute their own rules for customary idioms founded on common sense, have condemned this use of the attribute; and authors, suffering themselves to be led astray by these rules, often use an adverb in the place of an adjective.

"The greater part of philosophers have acknowledged the excellence of this government, which they have considered, some relatively to society, and others as it has relation to the general system of nature."

Anarch, ch. 62.

"The perceptions are exalted into a source of exquisite pleasure independently of every particular relation of interest."

Studies of Nature, 12.

In the first of these examples, *relatively* is used very awkwardly for *as it relates*, or *as relating*, or *as it relates*, or *in relation*; for the word has a direct reference to government.

In the second example, *independently* is used as if it had been intended to modify the verb *exalted*—the perceptions are *independently exalted*. But the manner of *exalting* is not the thing described. It is not that the perceptions are exalted in an independent manner, nor in a manner independent of a relation to interest; but the fact, that the perceptions are exalted into a source of exquisite pleasure, is independent of every relation of interest. Equally faulty is the following sentence:—

"Agreeably to this law, children are bound to support their parents." *Paley*, *Phil.*

RULE XVIII.—Adjectives are used to modify the action of verbs, and to express the qualities of things in connection with the action by which they are produced. Examples:—

"Open thine hand wide." *Dout*, xv. 8.

We observe in this passage, that *wide*, the attribute of hand, has a connection with the verb *open*; for it is not "open thy wide hand," but the attribute is supposed to be the effect of the act of opening. Nor can the modifier, *widely*, be used; for it is not simply the manner of the act which is intended, but the effect.

"Let us write slow and exact." *Guthrie's Quantilian*, 2. 375.

We might perhaps substitute *slowly* for *slow*, as describing only the manner of writing; but *exactly* cannot be substituted for *exact*, for this word is intended to denote the effect of writing, in the correctness of what is written. The adjective expresses the idea with a happy precision and brevity.

As this is one of the most common, as well as most beautiful idioms of our language, which has hitherto escaped due observation, the following authorities are subjoined to illustrate and justify the rule.

"We could hear distinctly the bells—which sounded sweetly soft and peevish." *Chandler's Travels*, ch. 37.

"A southerly wind succeeded blowing fresh." *Ibid.* vol. 2, 3.

"His provisions were grown very short." *Burchet's Nav. Hist.* 357.

"When the caloric exists ready combined with the water of solution." *Lavoisier*, *Trans.* ch. 5.

"The purest clay is that which burns white." *Encyc. art. Chemistry.*

"Bray, to pound or grind small." *Johnson's Diet.*

"When death lays waste thy house." *Beattie's Minst.*

"All which looks very little like the steady hand of nature." *Zaley*, *Phil.* ch. 5.

"Magnesia feels smooth; calcareous earths feel dry; lithomarga feels very greasy or at least smooth, yet some feels dry and dusty." *Kirwan*, vol. 1. 12. 189.

"By this substance, crystals and glasses are colored blue." *Chaptal*, *Trans.* 299.

"There is an apple described in Bradley's work, which is said to have one side of it a sweet fruit, which boils soft, and the other side a sour fruit, which boils hard." *Darwin*, *Phytol.* 105.

"Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring." *Pope*.

"Heaven open'd wide her ever during gales." *Milton*, p. L. 7.

"The victory of the ministry cost them dear." *Hume*, *Contin.* 11. 9.

"And just as short of reason he must fall." *Pope*.

"Thick and more thick the steely circle grows." *Hooker's Tasso*, b. 8.

"Ancus marched straight to Fidena." *Hooker*, *Rom. Hist.* 1. 6.

"The cakes eat short and crisp." *Vicar of Wakefield*.

"A steep ascent of steps which were cut close and deep into the rock." *Hampton's Polybus*, 2. 365.

"It makes the plow go deep or shallow." *Encyc. art. Agriculture.*

"The king's ships were getting ready." *Lusid.* 1. 91.

"After growing old in attendance." *Spect.* No. 282.

"The sun shineth lately." *Bacon*, *Apoph.*

"Soft sighed the flute." *Thomson*, *Spring*.

"I made him just and right." *Milton*, 3. 98.

"He drew not high unheard." *Ibid.* 645.

"When the vowel of the preceding syllable is pronounced short." *Beattie's Minstrel*.

"Here grass is cut close and gravel rolled smooth." *Pope*, *Let.*

"If you would try to live independent." *Whiston's Josephus*, 3. 5.

"Correct the heart and all will go right." *Purcell*, *Let.* 3.

The poets sometimes use adjectives in this manner, when modifiers would express the idea. Sometimes they are induced to it by the measure, and not unfrequently by the obvious superiority of the adjective in expressing the idea with force and precision.

"Cruentum etiam fluxisse aquam Albanam, quidam auctores erant." *Liv. lib. 27. 11.* Some authors related that the Alban river ran bloody.