

ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

retained in *dying* from *dye*, to color, to distinguish it from *dying*, the participle of *die*; in which word, *yis* used to prevent the duplication of *i*. In *singing* from *singe*, *e* is inserted to soften *g*, and to distinguish the word from *singing*; so also in *twining*.

This participle of the present tense is used, as before observed, to form the definite tenses. But it often loses the sense of the verb, and becomes an attribute; as *a loving friend, lasting friendship*. In this use, it admits of comparison by more or less, most and least; as *more lasting, less saving, most promising*.

This participle also becomes an adverb or modifier by receiving the termination *ly*, as *lovingly, laughingly*; and this species of modifiers admits of comparison, as *more lovingly, most charmingly*.

This participle also becomes a name and admits of the definitive; as, "*the twining of London in 1666*." In this capacity, it takes the plural form; as, "*the overflowing of the Nile*;" "*he seeth all his goings*." And sometimes the plural is used when a modifier is attached to the participle; as, "*the goings out, the comings in*." *Ezek. xlii. 11*. But this use of the participle is not esteemed elegant, nor is it common.

In a few instances, the participle in *ing* becomes a name by receiving the termination *ness*; as *williness*, from *will*.

The other species of participle is formed from the verb, by adding *d* or *ed*, and in regular verbs, it corresponds exactly with the past time; as *loved, proved*. This may be called the participle of the *perfect tense*.

This participle, when its verb is *transitive*, may be joined with the verb *be*, in all its inflections, to form a passive verb, and the participle, in such combination, is called *passive*.

But this participle, when formed from an *intransitive* verb, cannot, except in a few instances, be joined to the substantive verb, or used in a passive sense; but it unites with the other auxiliaries.

This participle often loses its verbal character, and becomes an attribute; as *a concerned plot, a painted house*. In this character it admits of comparison, as "*a more admired artist*," "*a most respected magistrate*;" and a few of these verbal attributes receive the termination *ly*, and become modifiers, as *pointedly, more conceitedly, most dejectedly*.

Those verbs, whose past tense and participle end in *ed*, are deemed regular. All which deviate from this rule, are deemed irregular, and their participles of the perfect tense end mostly in *t*, *n* and *g*. A list of them will be found in the sequel.

Auxiliaries.

In English, a few monosyllabic verbs are chiefly employed to form the modes and tenses of other verbs, and from this use, are denominated *auxiliaries* or *helping verbs*. These are followed by other verbs, without the prefix *to*, as "*he may go*;" though they were originally principal verbs, and some of them still retain that character, as well as that of auxiliaries.

The verbs which are always auxiliary to others, are *may*, *can*, *shall*, *must*; these which are sometimes auxiliaries, and sometimes principal verbs, are *will*, *have*, *do* and *be*. To these may be added *need* and *dare*.

May conveys the idea of *liberty* or permission; as, "*he may go, if he will*." Or it denotes *possibility*; as, "*he may have written or not*."

Can has the sense of *to be able*.

Shall, in its primitive sense, denotes *to be obliged*, coinciding nearly with *ought*; which sense it retains in the German. But this signification, though evidently the root of the present uses of this word, is much obscured. The following remarks will illustrate the several uses of *will* and *shall*.

Will has a common origin with the Latin *vol*. Hence the German *wollen*, the old English *woll*, and the present contraction *won't*, that is, *woll-not*.

This was originally a principal verb, and is still used as such in our language. It denotes the act of the mind in determining, or a determination; for *he wills to go*, and *he will go*, are radically of the same import.

* The primitive idea expressed by *may* was *power*; Sax. *magan*, to be able.

† It is supposed that the Roman *v* was pronounced as our *w*, *woll*.

When a man expresses his own determination of mind, *I will*, we are accustomed to consider the event, or act willed as certain; for we naturally connect the power to act, with the intention; hence we make the declaration of *will* a ground of confidence, and by an easy association of ideas, we connect the declaration, with an *obligation* to carry the determination into effect. Hence *will* expressed by a person himself, came to denote a *promise*.

But when a person declares the will of another, he is not supposed to possess the power to decide for him, and to carry his will into effect. He merely offers an opinion, grounded on information or probable circumstances, which give him more or less confidence of an event depending on another's will. Hence *will* in the second and third person simply foretells, or expresses an opinion of what will take place.

Shall, in some of its inflections, retains its primitive sense—*to be obliged or bound in duty*; but in many of its uses, its sense is much varied. In the first person, it merely foretells; as, "*I shall go to New-York to-morrow*." In this phrase, the word seems to have no reference to *obligation*; nor is it considered by a second person as imposing an obligation on the person uttering it. But when *shall* is used in the second and third persons, it resumes its primitive sense, or one nearly allied to it, implying obligation; as when a superior commands with authority, *you shall go*; or implying a right in the second and third person to expect, and hence denoting a promise in the speaker; as, "*you shall receive your wages*." This is radically saying, "*you ought to receive your wages*;" but this right in the second person to receive, implies an *obligation* in the person speaking to pay. Hence *shall* in the first person foretells; in the second, *promises, commands, or expresses determination*. When *shall* in the second and third persons, is uttered with emphasis, it expresses *determination* in the speaker, and implies an authority to enforce the act. "*You shall go*."

Must expresses necessity, and has no variation for person, number or tense.

Do is a principal and a transitive verb, signifying *to act or make*; but is used in the present or past tenses as an auxiliary to give emphasis to a declaration, to denote contrast, or to supply the place of the principal verb.

"It would have been impossible for Cicero to inflame the minds of the people to so high a pitch against *oppression*, considered in the abstract, as he actually did inflame them against Verres the oppressor." *Camp. Rhét. 1. 10*. Hence *did* expresses emphasis.

"It was hardly possible that he should not distinguish you as he has done." *Comp. Let. 40*. Here *done* stands in the place of *distinguished you*.

For it must be observed that when *do* is the substitute for another verb, it supplies the place not only of the verb, but of the object of the verb.

— "He loves not plays

As thou dost, Anthony."

That is, as thou lovest plays.

Do is also used in negative and interrogative sentences; the present and past tenses of the Indicative Mode being chiefly formed by this auxiliary; as, "*I do not reside in Boston*." "*Does John hold a commission?*"

Have is also a principal and transitive verb, denoting *to possess*; but much used as an auxiliary, as "*He has lately been to Hamburg*." It is often used to supply the place of a principal verb, or participle, preventing a repetition of it, and the object after it; as, "*I have not seen Paris, but my brother has*," that is, *has seen Paris*.

Equally common and extensive is the use of *be*, denoting existence, and hence called the *substantive verb*. Either in the character of a principal verb, or an auxiliary, it is found in almost every sentence of the language.

The inflection of a verb, in all the modes, tenses, numbers and persons, is termed *Conjugation*. The English verbs have few inflections, or changes of termination; most of the tenses and modes being formed by means of the auxiliaries.

NOTE.—In the following conjugations, a small *n* in an Italic character, is inserted in the place where *not* should stand in negative sentences. The same place is generally occupied by *never*, but not in every case. It is believed this letter will be very useful, especially to foreigners. The learner may conjugate the verb with or without *not*, at pleasure.

CONJUGATION OF THE AUXILIARIES.

MAY.—Present Tense.

	<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
1st. Person,	I may n	We may n
2d. Person,	{ You mayest n You may n	{ Ye may n You may n

* It may be remarked once for all, that *thou* and *ye* are the second person used in the sacred style, and sometimes in other grave discourses. In all other cases, *you* is the second person of the singular number, as well as of the plural. It is not one of the most trivial absurdities which the student must now encounter at every step, in the study of En-

	<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
3d. Person,	{ <i>mas.</i> He may n <i>fem.</i> She may n <i>neut.</i> It may n	They may n

glish grammar, that he meets with *you* in the plural number only, though he finds it the representative of an individual. Now if *you* is always plural, then *you yourself* is not grammatical; but absurd; the true expression then must be, *you yourself*, applied to an individual. There must say to a friend, who visits me, *please to seat yourself*, Sir. This is equal to the royal style, *we ourselves*.

Past Tense.

	<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
I might n		We might n
{ Thou mightest n You might n		{ Ye might n You might n
He might n		They might n

CAN.—Present Tense.

	<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
I can n		We can n
{ Thou canst n You can n		{ Ye can n You can n
He can n		They can n