Fifthly. When adverbs are emphatical, they may introduce a sentence, and be separated from the word to which they belong; as, "*How completely* this most amiable of human virtues *had taken possession* of his soul!" *Port. Lect.* 8. This position of the modifier is most frequent in interrogative and exclamatory phrases.

The adverb *always* is usually placed before a verb.

Never commonly precedes a single verb, except *be*, which it follows; as, "We are *never absent* from Church on Sunday." It is sometimes placed before an auxiliary, as "He *never* has been at court;" but it is more correctly and elegantly placed after the first auxiliary, as "He has never been at court," "he has never been intoxicated."

This word has a peculiar use in the phrase; "Ask me *never* so much dowry." *Gen.* xxxiv. "The voice of charmers, charming *never* so wisely." *Ps.* lviii. The sense is, "Ask me so much dowry as *never was asked before*;" an abbreviation singularly expressive of the idea of asking to any amount or extent. Authors not understanding it, have substituted *ever* for *never*, which impairs the force, if it does not destroy the sense, of the phrase. The use of both is now common, but *never* is preferable. "Some agreements indeed, though *never so* expressly made, are deemed of so important a nature, that they ought not to rest in verbal promise only."

Blackstone, Comm. B. 3. ch. 9.

The use of *here* and *there*, in the introduction of sentences before verbs, forms an authorized idiom of the language; though the words may be considered as redundant. The practice may have originated in the use of the hand in pointing, in the early stage of society.

Here, there, and *where*, originally denoting *place*, are now used in reference to words, subjects and various ideas of which place is not predicable. "It is not so with respect to volitions and actions; *here* the coalescence is intimate." *Hermes, ch. 8.* "We feel pain, in the sensations, *where* we expected pleasure." *Locke*, 2. 7. 4.

Hence, whence, and *thence*, denoting the place from which a departure is stated, are used either *with* or *without* the preposition *from*. In strictness, the idea of *from* is included in the words, and it ought not to be used. These words also are used not only in reference to place, but to any argument, subject, or idea, in a discourse.

Hither, thither, and *whither*, denoting *to* a place, are obsolete in popular practice, and obsolescent in writing; being superseded by *here, there, where*. This change is evidently the effect of the all-controlling disposition of men to abridge speech, by dismissing useless syllables, or by substituting short words of easy pronunciation for those which are more difficult. Against this disposition and its effects, the critic remonstrates in vain; and we are assured that common convenience and utility are better guides in whatever respects the use of words, than the opinions of men in their closets. No word or syllable in a language, which is essential, or very useful, is ever lost.

While is a noun denoting *time*, and not a modifier. In this phrase, "I will go *while* you stay," the word is used in its primitive manner, without government, like many other names of portions of time—*a month, a week*.

We are accustomed to use, as modifiers, *a little* and *a great deal*. "The many letters I receive, do not *a little* encourage me." *Spectator, No.* 124. Many names are used in like manner, as modifiers of the sense of verbs. "You don't care *six-pence* whether he was wet or dry." *Johnson.*

RULE XL.—In polite and classical language, two negatives destroy the negation and express an affirmative; as, "*Nor* did he *not* perceive them," that is, he did perceive them. This phraseology is not common nor agreeable to the genius of our tongue.

The following is a common and well authorized use of negatives. "His manners are not inelegant," that is, are elegant. This manner of expression, however, when not accompanied with particular emphasis, denotes a moderate degree of the quality.

NOTE.—In popular language, two negatives are used for a negation, according to the practice of the ancient Greeks and the modern French. This idiom was primitive, and was retained in the Saxon; as, "Oc se kining Peada *ne* iwade *nane* while." *Sax. Chron.* p. 39. And the king Peada did *not* reign *none* while, that is, not a long time. The learned, with a view to philosophical correctness, have rejected the use of *two* negatives for *one* negation. The consequence is, we have two modes of speaking directly opposite to each other, but expressing the same thing. "He did not owe nothing," in vulgar language, "and he owed nothing," in the style of the learned, mean precisely the same thing.

RULE XLI.—Prepositions are followed by the names of objects and the objective case; as, *from* New York *to* Philadelphia; *across* the Delaware; *over* land; *by* water; *through* the air; *with* us; *for* me; *to* them; *in* you; *among* the people; *toward* us.

The preposition *to* is supposed to be omitted after verbs of *giving, yielding, affording*, and the like; as, "give them bread," instead of give bread *to* them. "Afford him protection;" "furnish her with books." But this idiom seems to be primitive, and not elliptical.

From is sometimes suppressed; as in this phrase, "He was banished the kingdom."

Home, after a verb denoting motion *to*, is always used without *to*; as, "We are going home."

After the attribute *near, to* is often omitted; as, "To bring them nearer the truth." *Massillon.* Also after *adjoining*; as, "a garden adjoining a river."

The preposition is sometimes separated from the word which governs; as, "With a longing for that state *which* he is charmed *with*," instead of *with which* he is charmed.

In many cases, the relative pronoun may be suppressed, as "I did not see the person he came *with*," that is, *with whom* he came; and in other cases, *what* is employed for the word governed, as "I know not what person he gave the present *to*."

This separation of the preposition from the word governed by it, and the suppression of the substitute, are most common and most allowable in colloquial and epistolary language. In the grave and elevated style, they are seldom elegant, and never to be admitted to the prejudice of perspicuity; as in the following passage, "Of a place or number *which*, in a constant and endless enlarging progression, it can in thought never attain *to*."

Locke, 2. 17. 8.

A separation of the preposition to such a distance from the word with which it is connected in construction, is perplexing and inelegant.

NOTE.—In the use of *who* as an interrogative, there is an apparent deviation from a regular construction—it being used without distinction of case; as, "Who do you speak to?" "Who is she married to?" "Who is this reserved for?" "Who was it made by?" This idiom is not merely colloquial; it is found in the writings of our best authors. It is the Latin *cui* and *quo*.

RULE XLII.—Prepositions govern sentences and clauses or members of sentences; as, "*Without* seeking any more justifiable reasons of hostility."

Hume, 1. 5.

"*Besides* making an expedition into Kent." *Hume*, 1. 36.
"*From* what has been said." *Blair, Serm.*
"*To* the general history of these periods will be added, &c." *Enfield, Prelim.*
"*About* the beginning of the eleventh century." *Ibm.*
"*By* observing these rules and precautions." *Ibm.*
"*In* comparing the proofs of questionable facts." *Ibm.*
"*For* want of carefully attending to the preceding distinction." *Enfield, Hist. Phil. b. 2.*
"*After* men became christians." *Paley, Evid. ch. 1.*
"*Before* you were placed at the head of affairs." *Junius. Let.* 8.

"Personal bravery is not enough to constitute the general, *without* he animates the whole army with courage." *Fielding's Socrates, p.* 188.

"Pray, get these verses by heart *against* I see you." *Chesterfield, Let.*
"*After* having made me believe that I possessed a share in your affection." *Pope, Let.*
"Ambition, envy,—will take up our minds, *without* we can prevent ourselves with sobriety." *Spectator, No.* 143.

NOTE.—We observe, in the foregoing passages, the preposition has two uses. One is to precede a word to which other words are annexed as necessary to complete the sense—"about the beginning." Here the sense is not complete; the time is not designated. To define the time which is the object of the preposition *about*, it is necessary to add the words—"of the eleventh century"—*about that time*. So that the whole clause is really the object of the preposition.

The other use of the preposition is to precede nouns, verbs or other words which are not the object of the preposition, but which have a construction independent of it; as, "*after* men became christians." Here *men* is the nominative to *became*; yet the whole proposition is as really the object governed by *after*, as the word *hour*, in the phrase, *after that hour*. "Against I see you," is a phrase of like construction. No single word is an object or no object governed by *after, against*, but the whole affirmation is the object. "*Without* we can possess ourselves," has a like construction, and though superseded, in a degree, by *unless*, a word of similar import, is a true English phrase. After [this fact] men became christians—Against [that time when] I see you—Without [this fact] we can possess ourselves.

RULE XLIII.—The modifiers of sentences, *if, though, unless*, and *lest*, may be followed by verbs in the future tense, without the usual auxiliaries, *shall, will* or *should*; as, "If his son *ask* bread, will he give him a stone?" "If he *ask* a fish, will he give him a serpent?" "Though he *slay* me, yet will I trust in him." "He shall not eat of the holy things, unless he *wash* his flesh with water." "Lest thou *say* I have made Abram rich."

Except has a like effect upon the following verb; as, "I will not let thee go, except thou *bless* me." *Whether* has been numbered also among the conjunctions, which require the conditional mode, but by an egregious mistake. It is not a connective, nor does it imply a condition or hypothesis, but an alternative.

RULE XLIV.—Connectives join two or more clauses or members in a compound sentence; as, "Keep thy tongue from evil, *and* thy lips from speaking guile."

"I sought the Lord, *and* he heard me, *and* delivered me from all my fears." Here are three clauses combined into a sentence or period by the help of *and*; but a new verb is introduced in each, and the second connective prevents the repetition of the substitute *he* only.

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction; *but* a scorner heareth not rebuke." Here *but* joins the two clauses, but a new character is the nominative to a distinct verb, in the second clause, which exhibits a contrast to the first, and no word is omitted.