Worth not only follows the noun which it qualifies, but is followed by a noun denoting price or value; as, a book *worth a dollar* or *a guinea*; it is well *worth* the money. "It is *worth observation*." *Peive's Herodotus, Erato*. 98. If a substitute is used after *worth*, it must be in the objective case. *It is worth them or it.*

But *worthy*, the derivative of *worth*, follows the usual construction of adjectives, and may precede the noun it qualifies; as, a worthy man.

Regimen or Government.

RULE XIII.—One noun signifying the same thing with another, or descriptive of it, may be in apposition to it; that is, may stand in a like character or case, without an intervening verb; as, Paul, the apostle; John, the baptist; Newton, the philosopher; Chatham, the orator and statesman.

NOTE 1.—In the following sentence, a noun in the plural stands in apposition to two nouns in the singular, joined by an alternative. "The terms of our law will hardly find words that answer them in the *Spanish* or *Italian*, no scanty *languages*." *Locke*, 3. 5. 8.

NOTE 2.—Nouns are not unfrequently set in apposition to sentences; as, "Whereby if a man had a positive idea of infinite, either duration or space, he could add two infinites together; nay, make one infinite infinitely bigger than another: *absurdities* too gross to be confuted." *Locke*, 2. 17. 20. Here the *absurdities* are the whole preceding propositions.

"You are too *humane* and *considerate; things* few people can be charged with." *Pope Let.* Here *things* is in opposition to *humane* and *considerate*. Such a construction may be justified, when the ideas are correct, but it is not very common.

"The Dutch were formerly in possession of the coasting trade and freight of almost all other trading nations; they were also the bankers for all Europe; *advantages* by which they have gained immense sums." *Zimmerman's Survey*, 170. Here *advantages* is put in apposition to the two first members of the sentence.

RULE XXIV.—When two nouns are used, one denoting the possessor, the other the thing possessed, the name of the possessor precedes the other in the possessive case; as, "In my *Father's house* are many mansions." Men's bravery; England's fleet; a Christian's hope; Washington's prudence.

NOTE 1.—When the thing possessed is obvious, it is usual to omit the noun; as, "Let us go to St. Paul's," that is, church; "He is at the President's," that is, house.

"Nor think a lover's are but fancied woes." *Cowper.*

That is, a lover's woes. "Whose book is this? William's."

NOTE 2.—When the possessor is described by two or more nouns, the sign of the possessive is generally annexed to the last; as, "Edward, the second of England's Queen." *Bacon on Empire.*

"In Edward the third's time." *Blackstone's Comm. b. 1, ch. 2.*

"John the Baptist's head." *Matt.* xiv.

"*A member of parliament's paying* court to his constituents." *Burke.*

But if the thing possessed is represented as belonging to a number severally specified, the sign of the possessive is repeated with each; as, "He has the surgeon's and the physician's advice." "It was my father's, mother's, and uncle's opinion."*

NOTE 3.—When *of* is used before the possessive case of nouns, there is a double possessive, the thing possessed not being repeated; as, "Vital air was a discovery *of Priestley's*." "Combustion, as now understood, was a discovery *of Lavoisier's*." The sense of which is, that vital air was one of the discoveries of Priestley. This idiom prevents the repetition of the same word.

NOTE 4.—The possessive may be supplied by *of*, before the name of the possessor; as, "the hope of a christian." But *of* does not always denote possession; it denotes also *consisting of*, or *in, concerning*, &c. and in these cases, its place cannot be supplied by the possessive case. Thus *cloth of wool*, cannot be converted into *wool's cloth*; nor a *cup of water*, into *water's cup*; nor an *idea of an angel*, into an *angel's idea*; nor the *house of Lords*, into the *Lord's house.*

RULE XXV.—Participles are often used for nouns, and have the like effect in governing them in the possessive case; as, "A courier arrived from Madrid, with an account of his Catholic *majesty's having agreed* to the neutrality." "In case of his Catholic *majesty's dying* without issue." "Averse to the *nation's involving* itself in another war." *Hume, Contin. vol. 7, b. 2, ch. 1.* "Who can have no notion of the same *person's possessing* different accomplishments." *Spectator, No.* 150.

This is the true idiom of the language; yet the omission of the sign of the possessive is a common fault among modern writers, who learn the language by grammar, and neglect usages which are much better authority, and the basis of correct grammar. "Pieces of iron arranged in such a way as seemed most favorable for the *combustion being* communicated to every part." *Lavoisier, Trans.*

"There is no reason for *hydrogen being* an exception." *Ibm.* These expressions are not English.

RULE XXVI.—Transitive verbs and their participles require the objective case of the object of action to follow them: as, "In the beginning, God *created the heaven* and the *earth*."

"If ye love *me*, keep my commandments." "O righteous father, the world hath not known *thee*."

Sometimes the object and often the objective case of substitutes precedes the governing verb; as, "The spirit of truth, *whom* the world cannot *receive*." "*Whom* ye ignorantly worship, *him* declare I unto you."

Whom and *which*, when in the objective case, always precede the verb. In verse, a greater license of transposition is used, than in prose, and nouns are often placed before the governing verb.

"But through the heart
Should jealousy its *venom* once *diffuse*." *Thomson.*
"She with extended arms his *aid implores*." *Ibm.*

A noun with *whatever, whatsoever* or *whichever*, preceding, is placed before the governing verb; as, "*whatsoever* positive *ideas* we *have*." *Locke*, 2. 17.

NOTE 1.—We have some verbs which govern two words in the objective case; as,

"Did I request thee, maker, from my clay
To mould *me man*?" *Milton*, 10. 744.
"God seems to have made *him what* he was." *Life of Cowper.*
"Ask *him* his *opinion*." "You have asked *me the news*."

Will it be said that the latter phrases are elliptical, for "ask of him his opinion?" I apprehend this to be a mistake. According to the true idea of the government of a transitive verb, *him* must be the *object* in the phrase under consideration, as much as in this, "Ask *him* for a guinea?" or in this, "ask *him* to go."

This idiom is very ancient, as we often see it in the Latin. "Interrogatus sententiam." *Liv.* 26. 33. "Se id Scipionem orare." *Ibm.* 27. 17. "Quid te regem oraturi." *Ibm. lib.* 28. 5. The idiom in both languages had a common origin.

NOTE 2.—Some verbs were formerly used as transitive, which are no longer considered as such; as, "he repented *him*"—"flee *thee* away"—"he *was* swerved"—"the sum *was* amounted," &c. which are held improper.

Cease, however, is used as a transitive verb by our best writers. "Cease this impious rage." *Milton.* "Her lips their music cease." *Hoole's Tasso.*

RULE XXVII.—Intransitive verbs are followed by the name of the *act* or *effect*, which the verb expresses in *action*; as, "to *live* a *life* of virtue;" "to *die* the *death* of the righteous;" "to *dream dreams*;" "to *run* a *race*;" "to *sleep* the *sleep* of death."

We observe, in these examples, *life* is the *name of living* supposed to be complete, as *race* is the name of the *act of running* when accomplished.

NOTE.—Nearly allied to this idiom is that of using, after verbs transitive or intransitive, cognate nouns, which are not the objects of the verb, nor of precisely the same sense, but which are either the names of the result of the verb's action, or closely connected with it. Examples: "A guinea weighs five penny weight, six grains;" "a crown weighs nineteen penny weight;" "a piece of cloth measures ten yards."

"And on their hinges grate harsh thunder." "And rivers run potable gold." "The crispid brook run nectar." "Groves whose rich trees wept odorous gums and balm." "Grin a ghastly smile." *Milton.*

"Her lips blush deeper sweets." *Thomson.*

"To ascend or descend a flight of stairs, a ladder, or a mountain."

"To cost a guinea."

Under this rule or the following may be arranged these expressions: "Let them go *their way*." "When matters have been brought *this length*." *Lavoisier, Translation.* "We turn our eyes *this way* or *that way*." "Reckoning *any way* from ourselves, a yard, a mile, &c."

Locke, 2. 17.

Similar to this idiom are the phrases, to *go west* or *east—pointing north* or *south, north-west* or *south-east*, and the like, which I find to be Saxon phrases and very ancient.

In some instances verbs of this sort are followed by two objects; as, "a ring cost the *purchaser* an eagle."

RULE XXVIII.—Names of certain portions of time and space, and especially words denoting continuance of time or progression, are used without a governing word; as, "Jacob said, I will serve thee *seven years* for Rachel." "And dust shalt thou eat *all the days of thy life*." "And he abode with

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* The contrary rule in Murray is egregiously wrong; as exemplified in this phrase, "This was my father, mother and uncle's advice." This is not English. When we say, "the king of England's throne," the three words, *king of England*, are one noun in effect, and can have but one sign of the possessive. But when two or three distinct nouns are used, the article possessed is described as belonging to each. "It was my father's advice, my mother's advice, and my uncle's advice." We can omit *advice* after the two first, but by no means, the sign of the possessive.

* The radical idea of *weight* is *carry, bear* or *sustain*, from the Saxon *wag*, a balance. The idiom in question has its originial in that idea—a guinea *weighs* five penny weights, six grains—that is, *carries* or *sustains* that weight in the scales. How much of the propriety, and even of the beauty of language is lost, by neglecting to study its primitive state and principles!