GRAMMAR OF THE

RULE XLV.—Connectives join single words, which are the nominatives to the same verb, expressed or understood, or words which follow a transitive verb or a preposition in the same case. Connectives also join verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Example:

"*Peter* and *John* went up into the Temple."

Connectives join attributes and modifiers; as, "He is wise *and* virtuous."

"An orator pleads eloquently *and* plausibly."

The connectives perform a very important office in abridging language, by enabling us to omit words which must otherwise be repeated. Thus when I say, "I esteem religion and virtue," two affirmations, "I esteem religion, I esteem virtue," are actually included in the sentence.

When several words or clauses succeed each other, it is not uncommon to omit the connective; as, "We hear nothing of causing the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the lepers to be cleansed." *Paley, Evid.*

After the connective *than*, there may be and usually is an ellipsis of a verb, a noun, or other words; as, "There is none greater in this house than I." *Gen.* xxxix. 9. That is, than I am.

"Only in the throne will I be greater than thou." *Gen.* xli. That is, than thou shalt be.

"He loves his money more than his honor," that is, more than he loves his honor.

"The king of the north shall return and set forth a multitude greater than the former." *Dan.* xi. 13. That is, than the former multitude.

"I will pull down my barns and build greater." *Luke* xii. That is, greater barns.

Sometimes other words may be suppressed without obscuring the sense; as, "It is better for me to die than to live." *Jonah* iv. That is, better than *for me* to live.

Precise rules for the ellipsis of words, in all cases, cannot be given. In general, a writer will be governed by a regard to perspicuity, and omit no word, when the want of it leaves the sense obscure or ambiguous, nor when it weakens the strength of expression. But the following remarks and examples may be of use to the student.

1. When a number of words are joined in construction, the definitive may be omitted, except before the first; as *the* sun, moon and stars; a house and garden. So also when two or more attributes agree with the same name; as a great, wise and good prince. But when attributes or names are particularly emphatical, the definitive should be expressed before each; as the sun, the moon and the stars.

2. The repetition of names adds emphasis to ideas; as, "Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God," is more emphatical than "Christ, the power and the wisdom of God."

3. An adjective belonging to two or more nouns joined by a connective, may be omitted except before the first; as *my* house and garden; *good* qualities and actions. "*Their* interest and solicitation—" *Rambler*, 56. Nor does it make any difference that the nouns are in different numbers, as our adjectives have no distinction of number, the same word may be applied to the singular number and the plural; as a *magnificent* house and gardens; *his* house and lands. But when *a* precedes the first adjective, this construction is not elegant.

4. In compound sentences, a nominative pronoun or noun may be omitted before all the verbs except the first; as, I love, fear and respect the magistrate—instead of, I love, I fear and I respect. The substitute may sometimes be suppressed; as the man I saw, for the man *whom* I saw.

5. An adverb need not be repeated with every word which it qualifies, the connective *and* rendering it unnecessary; as, he spoke and acted *gracefully*. Here *gracefully* belongs to *speaking* as well as to *acting*.

A preposition may be omitted after a connective; as, he walked *over* the hills and the valleys, that is, *over* the valleys.

After *like* and *near*, *to* is usually omitted; as, "Like three distinct powers in mechanics." *Blackstone's Comm.* I. 2. That is, like *to* three. "Such opinions as seemed to approach nearest the truth." *Enfield*, 2. 59. That is, nearest *to* the truth.

Likewise after *join* and *adjoin*, *to* is sometimes omitted; as, "a garden adjoining the river."

For is omitted by the poets after *mourn*.

"He mourn'd no recreant friend, no mistress coy." *Beattie.*

PUNCTUATION.

Punctuation is the marking of the several pauses which are to be observed, in reading or speaking a sentence or continued discourse. By means of pauses, a discourse is divided into periods or complete sentences, and periods into clauses or simple sentences, and these, into phrases.

A period is a sentence complete, making perfect sense, and not connected in construction with what follows. The pause after the period is marked by a point [.] and in speaking, is distinguished by a cadence or fall of the voice.

The members of a period, or clauses and phrases, are all more or less connected in sense, and according to the nearness of the connection, are marked by a comma [,] a semicolon [;] or a colon [:]

The comma is the shortest pause, and is often used to mark the construction, where very little interruption of voice is allowable.

A simple sentence or clause contains an affirmation, a command or a question, that is, one personal verb, with its nominative and adjuncts. By *adjunct*, is meant any phrase or number of words added by way of modifying or qualifying the primary words. Thus when it is said, "Cicero was an orator *of a diffuse style*," the latter words, *of a diffuse style*, are the *adjunct* of *orator*, and the whole forms a complete simple sentence, with one *verb* or affirmation.

A phrase contains no assertion, or does not amount to a proposition.

Comma.

RULE I. In general the parts of a simple sentence or clause are not to be separated by any point whatever; as, "Hope is necessary in every condition of life." But when a simple sentence is long, or contains a distinct phrase or phrases, modifying the affirmation, it may be divided by a comma; as, "To be very active in laudable pursuits, is the distinguishing characteristic of a man of merit." "By revenging an injury, a man is but even with his enemy." In most cases, where a short pause will give distinctness to ideas, a comma is well placed after an important word; as, "To mourn without measure, is folly; not to mourn at all, insensibility." The pause after *measure*, in this sentence, is essential to the strength of the expression. "The idea of beauty is vague and undefined, different in different minds, and diversified by custom or place." *Rambler.*

RULE II. When a connective is omitted between two or more words, whether names, adjectives, pronouns, verbs or modifiers, the place is supplied by a comma; as, "Love, joy, peace and blessedness are reserved for the good." "The miseries of poverty, of sickness, of captivity, would, without hope, be insupportable." *Rambler.* "We hear nothing of causing the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the lepers to be cleansed." *Paley.* "My son, fear God, serve and obey his maker, is a pious man." "Industry steadily, prudently and vigorously pursued, leads to wealth." "David was a brave, martial, enterprising prince." "The most innocent pleasures are the most rational, the most delightful and the most durable."

RULE III. Two or more simple sentences closely connected in sense, not dependent on each other, are separated by a comma only; as, "When our reason deceive us, we flatter ourselves we leave them." "The temperate man's pleasures are durable, because they are regular." "That all the duties of morality ought to be practised, is without difficulty discoverable, because ignorance or uncertainty would immediately involve the world in confusion and distress." *Rambler.*

RULE IV. The sentence independent or case absolute, detached affirmations or phrases involved in sentences, and other important clauses, must be separated by a comma from the other parts of a sentence; as, "The envoy has returned, his business being accomplished." The envoy having accomplished his business, has returned." "Providence has, I think, displayed a tenderness for mankind." *Rambler.* "The decision of patronage, who was but half a goddess, has been sometimes erroneous." *Ibm.* "The sciences, after a thousand indignities, retired from the palace of patronage." *Ibm.* "It is, in many cases, apparent." *Ibm.*

RULE V. A comma is often required to mark contrast, antithesis, or remarkable points in a sentence, and sometimes very properly separates words closely dependent in construction; as, "a good man will love himself too well to *lose*, and his neighbor too well to *win*, an estate by gaming." "Prosperity *gains* friends, and adversity *tries* them." "It is harder to avoid censure, than to gain applause."

"Though deep, yet clear; though gentle, yet not dull."

RULE VI. A single name in apposition is not separated by a comma; as, "the Apostle Peter:" but when such name is accompanied with an adjunct, it should be separated; as, "Parmenio, a friend of Alexander's, hearing the great offers that Darius had made, said, 'Were I Alexander, I would accept them.'" "So would I," replied Alexander, "were I Parmenio."

RULE VII. Terms of address, and words of others repeated, but not introduced as a quotation, are separated by a comma; as, "Wherefore, Sirs, be of good cheer." "My son, hear the counsel of thy father." "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." *Exodus.*

RULE VIII. Modifying words and phrases, as however, nay, hence, besides, in short, finally, formerly, &c. are usually separated by a comma; as, "It is, however, the task of criticism to establish principles." *Rambler.*

Semicolon.

The semicolon is placed between the clauses of a period, which are less closely connected than such as are separated by a comma.

First. When the first division of a sentence completes a proposition, so as to have no dependence on what follows; but the following clause has a dependence on the preceding, the two parts are separated generally by a semicolon; as, "It may be laid down as a maxim, that it is more easy to take away superfluities than to supply defects; and therefore he that is culpable, because he has passed the middle point of virtue, is always accounted a fairer object of hope, than he who fails by falling short." *Rambler.* In this sentence the part of the sentence preceding the semicolon is a perfect