

GRAMMAR OF THE

sense." *Locke, 2. 21. 61.* "To prevent property from being too unequally distributed, no person should be allowed to dispose of his possessions to the prejudice of his lawful heirs." *Anarch. ch. 62.*

NOTE.—This form of sentence seems to be derived from the use of *for* before the verb, *for to see*. The modern practice is to prefix some noun, as *in order to see*, or "With a view to prevent."

RULE XXXIV.—In the use of the passive form, there is often an inversion of the order of the subject and object; thus, "The bishops and archbishops were allowed their seats in the house of Lords."

Blackstone, Comm. b. 1, ch. 2. Here the true construction would be, "Seats in the house of Lords were allowed to the bishops and archbishops."

"Theresa was forbid the presence of the emperor." *Murphy's Tacitus, 2. 540.* NOTE.—This is a common phrase. It may be resolved thus: The presence of the emperor was forbid to Theresa—or, Theresa was forbid to approach the presence of the emperor.

RULE XXXV.—The particle of the present tense without a definitive *a* or *the*, or with any possessive attribute, usually retains the sense of its verb, and has the objective case after it; as, "The clerk is engraving the bill." "The love we bear our friends is generally caused by our finding the same dissimulations in them, which we feel in ourselves."

Pope's Letters. 10m. "In return to your inviting me to your forest." But when the particle is preceded by *a* or *the*, it takes the character and government of a noun, and in most cases, must be followed by *of*; as, "The middle station of life seems to be most advantageously situated for the acquiring of wisdom." Poverty turns our thoughts too much upon the supplying of our wants, and riches, upon enjoying our superfluities."

Spectator, No. 461. In many cases this particle becomes a noun, without *a* or *the*; as, "It is more properly talking upon paper, than writing." *Pope, Let. 10m.*

NOTE.—The foregoing rule is often violated by our best writers, and to make it universal is to assume an authority much too dictatorial. "Some were employed in blowing of glass; others in weaving of linen."

Gibbon, Rom. Emp. ch. 10. RULE XXXVI.—Particles of the present tense, either single or in union with the particle of the perfect tense, often perform, at once, the office of a verb and a noun; as, "The taking from another what is his, without his knowledge or allowance, is called stealing." *Locke, 2. 28. 16.*

"By the mind's changing the object to which it compares any thing." *Locke, 2. 25.* "To save them from other people's damning them." *Wycherley to Pope.*

"Such a plan is not capable of being carried into execution." *Anarch. ch. 62.* "They could not avoid submitting to this influence."

Boling. on Hist. Let. 8.

NOTE 1.—The particle in *ing*, though strictly active in its signification, is not unfrequently used by modern authors in a passive sense; as, "More living particles are produced—than are necessary for nutrition or for the restoration of decomposing organs," that is, organs suffering decomposition. *Darwin, Zoon. sec. 39. 9.* "From which caloric is disengaging," that is, undergoing the process of separation. *Lavoisier, Translation.* "The number is augmenting daily." *Ibm.* "They seemed to think Cesar was slaying before their eyes rather than that he was slain." *Guth. Quin. 2. 18.* "The nation had cried out loudly against the crime while it was committing." *Boling. on Hist. Let. 8.* "My lives are re-printing." *Johnson to Boswell, 1782.*

Many of this kind of particles have become mere attributes; as writing paper; looking glass; spelling or pronouncing dictionary. *Waiting and owing* have long had the character of passive particles, with the sense of *read*, *sewed*.

NOTE 2.—The use of two particles in the place of a noun is one of the most frequent practices of our best writers; as, "This did not prevent John's being acknowledged and solemnly inaugurated Duke of Normandy." *Henry, Hist. Brit. b. 3.* The particle being with an attribute, supplies the place of a noun also. "As to the difference of being more general, that makes this maxim more remote from being innate." *Locke, 1. 2. 20.*

RULE XXXVII.—Particles, like attributes, agree with a sentence, a part of a sentence, or a substitute for a sentence; as, "Concerning relation in general, these things may be considered." *Locke, 2. 25.*

Here *concerning* relates to the whole of the last clause of the sentence—"These things may be considered"—all which is *concerning* relation in general.

"This criterion will be different, according to the nature of the object which the mind contemplates." *Enfield, Hist. Phil. 2. 15.*

That is, the difference of criterion will accord with the nature of the object.

"According to Hierocles, Ammonius was induced to execute the plan of a distinct eclectic school." *Ibm. p. 63.*

Here the whole statement of facts in the last clause was according to Hierocles; that is, it accorded with his testimony.

"I have accepted thee, concerning this thing also." *Gen. 19.* "I speak concerning Christ and the church." *Eph. v. 32.*

"Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites, touching their charge."

Vim. viii. 26.

RULE XXXVIII.—Particles often stand without a noun, sentence or substitute, on which they immediately depend, being referable to either of the persons indefinitely; as, "It is not possible to act otherwise, considering the weakness of our nature." *Spectator.*

NOTE.—Johnson, in his Dictionary, calls this a *kind of conjunction*, and adds—"It had been more grammatically written considered; *vu. French*; but *considering* is always used."

This criticism indicates an incorrect view of the subject. *Considered*, cannot be used without a change in the structure of the sentence—"The weakness of our nature being considered." But to make this form of expression correspondent to the other clause, that ought also to be varied, and a definite person introduced; thus, "It does not appear (to us) possible to act otherwise, the weakness of our nature being considered." But this amendment would be of no advantage.

To comprehend the use of such expressions, we should consider that men do not usually deal in abstract propositions and lay down truths without reference to persons. This manner of discoursing is often less invidious than to apply propositions or opinions to persons. To accomplish this purpose, men have devised words and modes of speech which enable them thus to communicate their ideas. In the passage cited, the first clause contains a general abstract proposition, equally applicable to any person—"It is not possible to act otherwise." That is, it is not possible for me, for you, for him, or for her; but it might be invidious to specify persons. It is not possible for John or Thomas to act otherwise, he considering the weakness of his nature. Hence the proposition is left without application; and it follows naturally that the persons who are to consider the cause, the weakness of our nature, should be left indefinite, or unascertained. Hence considering is left without a direct application to any person.

Whatever foundation there may be for this explanation, the idiom is common and well authorized.

Generally speaking, the heir at law is not bound by the intention of the testator." *Paley, Phil. 23.*

"Supposing that electricity is actually a substance, and taking it for granted that it is different from caloric, does it not in all probability contain caloric, as well as all other bodies?" *Thomson, Chim. art. Caloric.*

Here is no noun expressed or implied, to which *supposing* and *taking* can be referred; *we* would be most naturally understood.

"Supposing the first stratum of particles to remain in their place, after their union with caloric, we can conceive an affinity, &c." *Ibm.* Here *supposing* may be referred to *we*, but is this the real construction?

"For supposing parliament had a right to meet spontaneously, without being called together, it would be impossible to conceive that all the members would agree." *Ibm.*

"The articles of this charge, considering by whom it was brought, were not of so high a nature as might have been expected."

Henry, Brit. B. 4. ch. 1.

"It is most reasonable to conclude that, excepting the assistance he may be supposed to have derived from his countrymen, his plan of civilization was the product of his own abilities." *Enfield, Hist. Phil. 1. ch. 9.*

"None of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing." *Neh. iv. 23.*

"And he said unto them, hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way." *Gen. xxiv. 56.*

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." *Col. iii. 9.*

"Comparing two men, in reference to a common parent, it is easy to frame the ideas of brothers." *Locke, 2. 25.*

"Comparing this to true, it would help us in the species of things no farther than the tribes of animals and vegetables." *Locke, 3. 6. 23.*

RULE XXXIX.—Adverbs or Modifiers are usually placed near the words whose signification they are intended to affect.

First. They are placed before adjectives; as, *truly* wise; *sincerely* upright; *unaffectedly* polite.

Secondly. They usually follow a verb when single; as, he spoke *eloquently*; and if a verb is transitive with an object following, the adverb follows the object; as, "John received the present *gratefully*."

To this rule, the exceptions are very numerous, and not to be classed under general heads. "So it frequently happens." "Men often deceive themselves." Indeed, in many cases the position of the modifier makes no difference in the sense, and may be regulated entirely by the preference of sound, in the general structure of the period, provided it is not such as to mislead the reader, in the application of the word.

Thirdly. When one auxiliary and a particle are used, the modifier is usually placed before either or it follows the particle; as, "he was *graciously* received," or "he was received *graciously*." The first is the most elegant.

Fourthly. When two auxiliaries are used, the adverb is usually placed after the second; as, "We have been *kindly* treated." But it may follow the particle, as "We have been treated *kindly*;" and in some cases it may precede the auxiliaries, as "And *certainly* you must have known."

Junius, Letter 8.