

XVII.

METHODS OF INVERSION AND TRANSPOSITION.

The same idea may be expressed in a great variety of ways by the methods of inversion and transposition suggested in the following examples.

Example 1st.

By changing active verbs into passive, and the contrary; thus, *By the active verb.* A multitude of delighted guests soon filled the places of those who refused to come. *By the passive verb.* The places of those who refused to come were soon filled by a multitude of delighted guests.

Example 2d.

By using the case absolute, instead of the nominative case and its verb, and the contrary; as, *The class having recited their lessons,* the teacher dismissed them. *The class recited their lessons* and the teacher dismissed them. Of these two sentences the former is preferable, because it preserves the unity of the sentence, which requires that the subject or nominative should be changed as little as possible during the course of the sentence. Another recommendation of the former expression is, that it throws out the conjunction, which should never be unnecessarily introduced into a sentence.

Example 3d.

Infinitive mood or substantive and participial phrases instead of nominative or objective nouns, and the reverse; as, His having been unfortunate is no disgrace; instead of, His misfortunes are no disgrace.

Diligence, industry, and proper improvement of time are material duties of the young; or, To be diligent, industrious, and properly to improve time are material duties of the young.

Example 4th.

By the negation or affirmation of the contrary; as, Solon the Athenian effected a great change in the government of his

country. Solon, the Athenian, effected *no small* change in the government of his country.

The beauty of the earth is *as conspicuous* as the grandeur of the heavens. The beauty of the earth is *not less conspicuous* than the grandeur of the heavens.

Example 5th.

By reversing the corresponding parts of the sentence, with a negative adverb; as, The grandeur of the heavens is *not* more conspicuous than the beauty of the earth.

*The negation of the contrary.** The beauty of the earth is *not less* conspicuous than the grandeur of the heavens.

By a comparison. There is as much beauty in the earth, as there is grandeur in the heavens.

By an expletive cause. There is no less beauty in the earth than grandeur in the heavens.

Example 6th.

By changing the participial phrases into a personal verb with a conjunction; as, Charles, having been deprived of the help of tutors, neglected his studies. Charles was deprived of the help of tutors, and therefore he neglected his studies.

Example 7th.

Change of the nominative and verb into an infinitive phrase; as, He sacrificed his future ease and reputation *that he might enjoy* present pleasure. He sacrificed his future ease and reputation *to enjoy* present pleasure.

Example 8th.

The infinitive changed into an objective noun; as, Canst thou expect *to escape* the hand of vengeance? Canst thou expect *an escape* from the hand of vengeance?

Or into a finite verb with its nominative; as, Canst thou expect that thou *shalt escape* the hand of vengeance?

* The negative adjective is generally more elegant than the negative adverb. Thus, "I was *unable*," is to be preferred to the expression, "I was *not able*." "Invisible," rather than "not visible;" "Inconsistent," rather than "not consistent," &c.

Example 9th.

Participial nouns converted into common nouns, and the contrary; as, Providence alone can order the changing of times and seasons. Providence alone can order the changes of times and seasons.

Example 10th.

The change of the verb, an adjective, or an adverb, into a noun and the contrary; and the conversion of a noun into a pronoun; as, Idleness, ease, and prosperity tend to generate folly and vice. The tendency of idleness, ease, and prosperity is to generate folly and vice. Idleness, ease, and prosperity have a tendency toward the generation of folly. Folly and vice are too generally the consequences of idleness, ease, and prosperity.

Simple language always pleases most. Simplicity of language always pleases most. We please most when we speak simply.

Those persons who, &c. They who, &c.

Example 11th.

The conversion of an active or a passive verb into a neuter verb with an adjective; as, Sobriety of mind suits the present state of man. Sobriety of mind is suitable to the present state of man.

Example 12th.

By the conversion of a declaration into an obligation, with a corresponding change of words.

Declaration. Man's present state renders sobriety of mind highly becoming.

Obligation. Man in his present state should be characterized by sobriety of mind.

Example 13th.

By a noun in apposition to avoid the use of the conjunction and. Hope is the sustainer of the mind, and supports us under many a burden. Hope, the sustainer of the mind, supports us under many a burden.

Example 14th.

By the preposition and its objective case, instead of the possessive; as, The moon's mild radiance and the sun's resplendent brightness are objects which, &c. The mild radiance of the moon and the resplendent brightness of the sun, &c.*

The repetition of and † avoided by the use of the preposition; as, God has given us senses to enjoy all these beautiful objects, and reason to guide us in the use of them. God has given us senses to enjoy all these beautiful objects, with reason to guide us in the use of them.

By the use of the potential mode instead of the infinitive; God has given us senses that we may enjoy all these beautiful objects, with reason, &c.

An infinitive phrase instead of a nominative noun; To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly, are duties enjoined by Christianity. Justice, mercy, and humility, are duties enjoined by Christianity.

The negative adverb with the conjunction but; We can observe the exquisite skill of the Artificer in all that we see around us. We cannot but observe the exquisite skill of the Artificer in all that we see around us.

It is to be remarked, that although some examples have been given, in which the participial noun is used, yet when there is a common noun from the same root, of similar meaning, the participial noun should be avoided. Thus, "The habit of deceiving" is not so elegant an expression as "Habits of deception."

Example 15th.

Resolution of the personal pronoun, with the conjunction and into the relative pronoun; thus, We can learn a lesson of resignation, and it will prepare us for that happy home where the weary are at rest. We can learn a lesson of resignation,

* It is deemed very inelegant to construct a sentence with many possessive nouns, or with many objectives governed by the preposition *of*. Thus, the sentence, *The extent of the prerogative of the King of England, or, The King of England's prerogative's extent,* would be better expressed thus, *The extent of the King of England's prerogative.*

† The use of the conjunction *and* may often be avoided by dividing long sentences into short ones.

which will prepare us for that happy home where the weary are at rest.

Example 16th.

By the use of the present or perfect participle instead of the verb; as, *He was called* to the exercise of the supreme power at a very early age, *and evinced* a great knowledge of government and laws, *and was regarded* by mankind with a respect which is seldom bestowed on one so young.

In this sentence the use of the participles removes one of the conjunctions, which young writers are very apt to repeat unnecessarily; thus, *Called* to the exercise of the supreme power at a very early age, and evincing a great knowledge of government and laws, he was regarded by mankind with a respect which is seldom bestowed on one so young.

By the use of the participles instead of the relative clause, as, "The smiles that encourage severity of judgement hide malice and insincerity." Smiles encouraging severity of judgement hide malice and insincerity.

For the sake of emphasis, or to gratify a taste for singularity, some writers have adopted the poetical style in prose, placing the verb before its nominative; thus, When we go, for go we must, &c. Proceed we now to the second subject of our consideration. Recognize we here the hand of an Almighty power.

In some instances, perhaps not strictly proper, we find the definite article placed before the relative pronoun; as, *The things, the which* you have seen and understood, &c.

It is to be observed, that in all the changes suggested in the foregoing models, there must be some slight change in the idea, but still the identity of the thought is sufficiently preserved in all the changes suggested.*

* Under the head of *variety of expression*, may be noticed some few peculiarities and improprieties, which are sometimes heard, especially in colloquial intercourse, and which, in some instances, are not noticed by any grammatical authority. And first, the improper use of *if* for *whether*, as follows: "She asked me *if* I would go with her." It should be, "She asked me *whether* I would go," &c. Again, the improper use of *me* for *myself*, and of *you* for *yourself*. As, I am going to wash *me*. Do you intend to wash *you*? It should be *myself* and *yourself*. Again, The use of *as* for *that*; as, I do not know *as* I shall go. I do not know *as* I could tell when. It should be *that*. I do not know *that* I shall go. I do not know *that* I could tell when. Again, The use of *any* and *got* with a negative; as, I have

Examples of some of the preceding methods of inversion and transposition.

Example 1st.

The mind is sustained by hope.
Hope sustains the mind.
Hope is the sustainer of the mind.
The sustainer of the mind is hope.

Example 2d.

Idleness, ease, and prosperity, tend to generate folly and vice.

The tendency of idleness, ease, and prosperity is to generate folly and vice.

Idleness, ease, and prosperity have a tendency, &c.

not *got any* book. It would be better to say, I have no book. Such words as *fetch* for *bring*, *sweat* for *perspiration*, and many others of a similar character, are considered, to say the least, inelegant, and are to be avoided. The word *so* is sometimes heard in use for *therefore*; as, Charles did not wish to go, *so* I did not urge him. It should be, Charles did not wish to go, *therefore* I did not urge him. *Other* is sometimes improperly followed by *but* instead of *than*; as, I saw no other *but* him. It should be, I saw no other *than* him. We sometimes hear the demonstrative pronoun improperly used for the personal pronoun; as, *Those* who hear must obey. It should be, *They* who hear must obey. We sometimes hear *such* expressions as this: I know of hardly [or scarcely] a passage, &c. It would be better to say, I know of no passage, &c. The past tenses of the word *lay* (to place) are very frequently and improperly used for the corresponding tenses of *lie* (to lie down). Thus, The water *laid* in the pool. It should be, *lay* in the pool. You have *laid* abed too long. It should be, You have *lain*, &c. Again, We frequently find a want of correspondence in the different parts of a sentence, as follows: He did not mention Leonora, nor that her father was dead. It is better to say, He did not mention Leonora, nor the death of her father. These expressions fall under grammatical rule.

In sentences where the negative adverb occurs, it should be followed by the negative conjunction. Thus, "Thou canst not tell whence it cometh *and* whither it goeth," should be, "Thou canst not tell whence it cometh *nor* whither it goeth."

In the use of prepositions we find many manifest improprieties. As no certain rule can be laid down with regard to them, a few examples are presented, to show what prepositions may be properly used with certain words. It may, however, be remarked that the same preposition that follows a verb or adverb, should generally follow the noun, &c., which is derived from it, as, confide *in*, confidence *in*; disposed *to* tyrannize, a disposition *to* tyranny, &c.

Accuse of falsehood.	Differ from.	Need of.
Accused by his friend.	Difficulty in.	Observance of.
Acquit of.	Derivation of.	Prejudice against.

Folly and vice are too frequently the consequences of idleness, ease, and prosperity.*

Exercises on the principles of the preceding methods of Inversion and Transposition.

Providence alone can order the changing of the seasons.
Can you expect to be exempted from these troubles which all must suffer?

Earth shall claim thy growth, to be resolved to earth again.
That I may convince you of my sincerity, I will repeat the assertion.
Sobriety of mind is not unsuitable to the present state of man.
He had no little difficulty in accomplishing the undertaking.
A large part of the company were pleased with his remarks.
Hope sustains the mind.

Indeed, if we could arrest time, and strike off the wheels of his chariot, and, like Joshua, bid the sun stand still, and make opportunity tarry as long as we had occasion for it, this were something to excuse our delay or at least to mitigate and abate the folly and unreasonableness of it.

* The word *it* commonly called the neuter pronoun, is sometimes very serviceable in enabling us to alter the arrangement. Thus, It is hope that sustains the mind. It is by hope that the mind is sustained, &c. See *Whately's Rhetoric, Part 3d, Chap. 2d, Part 11th.*

Adapted to.	Disappointed <i>in</i> or <i>of</i> . †	Profit <i>by</i> .
Agreeable to.	Disapprove <i>of</i> .	Provide <i>with, for, or against</i> .
Averse to.	Discouragement to.	Reconcile to.
Bestow upon.	Dissent <i>from</i> .	Replete <i>with</i> .
Boast or brag of.	Eager <i>in</i> .	Resemblance to.
Call on.	Engaged <i>in</i> .	Resolve on.
Change for.	Exception <i>from</i> .	Reduce <i>under</i> or <i>to</i> . ‡
Confide in.	Expert <i>at</i> or <i>in</i> .	Regard to or for.
Conformable to.	Fall <i>under</i> .	Sswerve <i>from</i> .
Compliance with.	Free <i>from</i> .	Taste of or for.
Consonant to.	Glad of or at. †	Think of or on.
Conversant with * a person, in a thing.	Independent of or on.	True to.
Dependent upon.	Insist upon.	Wait on.
Derogation from.	Made of.	Worthy of. **
Die of or by.	Marry to.	
	Martyr for.	

* Addison has, "conversant among the writings," &c., and, "conversant about worldly affairs." Generally speaking, "conversant with" is preferable.
† We are disappointed of a thing when we do not get it; and disappointed in it when we have it, and find that it does not answer our expectations.
‡ "Glad of," when the cause of joy is something gained or possessed; and "glad at," when something befalls another; as, "Jonah was glad of the gourd;" "He that is glad at calamities," &c.

§ "Reduce under," is to conquer or subdue.
|| A taste of a thing, implies actual enjoyment of it; but a taste for it, implies only a capacity for enjoyment; as, "When we have had a taste of the pleasures of virtue, we can have no taste for those of vice."
** Many of these words sometimes take other prepositions after them, to express various meanings; thus, for example, "Fall in, to comply;" "Fall off, to forsake;" "Fall out, to happen;" "Fall upon, to attack;" "Fall to, to begin eagerly," &c.

The records of Scripture exhibit no character more remarkable and instructive than that of the Patriarch Joseph. He is one who is beheld by us, tried in all the vicissitudes of fortune; from the condition of a slave rising to be ruler of the land of Egypt; and in every station, favor is acquired by him with God and man, by his wisdom and virtue. When he was overseer of Potiphar's house he proved his fidelity by strong temptations, which were honorably resisted by him.

When the artifices of a false woman threw him into prison, he was soon rendered conspicuous even in that dark mansion by his integrity and prudence.

Poetry is sublime when any great and good affection, as piety or patriotism, is awakened in the mind by it.

But in this dark and bewildered state an opposite direction is taken by the aspiring tendency of our nature and a very misplaced ambition is fed by it.

The mind is sustained by hope.

Idleness, ease, and prosperity tend to generate folly and vice.

The beauty displayed in the earth equals the grandeur conspicuous in the heavens.

Solon, the Athenian, effected a great change in the government of his country.

The Spartans considered war as the great business of life. For that reason they trained their children to laborious exercise, and instilled into their minds the principles of temperance and frugality.

He sacrificed his future ease and reputation that he might enjoy present pleasure.

When virtue abandons us, and conscience reproaches us, we become terrified with imaginary evils.

Expect no more from the world than it is able to afford you.

Canst thou expect to escape the hand of vengeance?

Providence alone can order the changing of times and seasons.

She who studies her glass neglects her own heart.

It is a favorite opinion with some, that certain modes of instruction are more profitable than others, or at least that there are some branches of study which give more full and constant employment to the intellectual faculties.

While many considerations allure the young and enterprising to commercial pursuits, the amount of capital which is needed, tends to limit the number of those who thus employ themselves.

The eye could scarcely reach the lofty and noble ceiling, the sides being regularly formed with spars, and the whole place presenting the idea of a magnificent theatre, that was illuminated with a vast profusion of lights.

An endless variety of characters, dispositions, and passions, diversifies the wide circle of human affairs.

A crowd that obstructed his passage awakened him from the tranquillity of meditation. He raised his eyes and saw the chief vizier, who had returned from the divan and was entering his palace.

Let us remember that of small incidents the system of human life is chiefly composed.

Her temper and her capacity were the foundation of her singular talents for government. She was endowed with a great command over herself and she soon obtained an uncontrolled ascendancy over the people.

Few sovereigns of England succeeded to the throne in more difficult circumstances, and by none was the government uniformly conducted so successfully and felicitiously.

The enemy was subdued and the garrison was silenced, and the victorious army returned triumphing.

To be docile and attentive is required of the young.

Miss Hannah Moore's writings have produced no small influence on the morals of the people.

The elegance of her manners is as conspicuous as the beauty of her person.

He took great pains that he might obtain the reward.

Gentle manners always please us most.

Strong expressions suit only strong feelings.

Providence has furnished us with talents for performing our duties and reason to guide in their performance.

We can see the wisdom of God in all his works.

XVIII.

FORMATION OF COMPOUND SENTENCES FROM SIMPLE ONES.

In every composition there should be a due intermixture of long and short sentences. For this reason the student should understand how to form compound sentences from simple ones.* In the prosecution of this work, he must recollect that in every sentence there must be some connecting principle among the parts. Some one object must reign and be predominant. There is commonly in every well-formed sentence, some person or thing which is the governing word, and this should be continued so, if possible, from the beginning to the end of the sentence.

Another principle, which he must also bear in mind, is that

* Professor Newman says, in his Rhetoric, that "Vivacity of Style is sometimes attained by the omission of conjunctions and the consequent division of the discourse into short sentences." The following example illustrates his remark:

"As the storm increased with the night, the sea was lashed into tremendous confusion, and there was a fearful sullen sound of rushing waves and broken surges, while deep called unto deep."

"The storm increased with the night. The sea was lashed into tremendous confusion. There was a fearful sullen sound of rushing waves and broken surges. Deep called unto deep."

which is expressed in Dr. Blair's second rule for the preservation of the unity of a sentence, namely: "Never to crowd into one sentence, things which have so little connection, that they could bear to be divided into two or more sentences."

The violation of this rule tends so much to perplex and obscure, that it is safer to err by too many short sentences, than by one that is overloaded and embarrassed.

Example.

The Sultan was dangerously wounded.

Thy conveyed him to his tent.

Upon hearing of the defeat of his troops, they put him into a litter.

The litter transported him to a place of safety.

The place of safety was at the distance of about fifteen leagues.

Compound sentence formed from the preceding simple ones.

The Sultan being dangerously wounded, they carried him to his tent; and upon hearing of the defeat of his troops, they put him into a litter, which transported him to a place of safety, at the distance of about fifteen leagues.

This sentence will be better if it be constructed as follows so that there shall be but one governing word from the beginning to the end of the sentence. Thus:

The Sultan being dangerously wounded, was carried to his tent; and on hearing of the defeat of his troops, was put into a litter, and transported to a place of safety, about fifteen leagues distant.

The following rules for the arrangement of words should be particularly observed, in the composition of compound sentences.

Rule 1st. The words should be so arranged as to mark as distinctly as possible by their location, the relation of the several parts to each other.

This rule requires that the verb should be placed as near as possible to the nominative; that the object should follow the verb in close succession, that adverbs should be placed near the word whose signification they affect, that the preposition should be immediately followed by the word which it governs, and that pronouns should be placed in such a position as to leave no doubt in the mind, with regard to their antecedents.

Rule 2d. When a circumstance is thrown into the midst of a sentence

it should not be placed between the capital clauses, nor so as to hang loosely, but should be distinctly determined to its connexion by the position which it occupies.

The following sentence, composed of several simple sentences, is badly arranged. The parts in *Italic* show what the 'circumstance' is which is thrown into the midst of the sentence.

'The minister who grows less by his elevation, *like a statue placed on a mighty pedestal*, will always have his jealousy strong about him.'

In this sentence, a beautiful simile, by its improper location, is not only deprived of its effect, but is an encumbrance. Let a slight alteration of the arrangement be made, and the simile is restored to its beauty, and becomes highly ornamental. Thus:

The minister, who, like a statue placed on a mighty pedestal, grows less by his elevation, will always have his jealousy strong about him.

Rule 3d. Every sentence should present to the mind a distinct picture, or single group of ideas. For this reason, the scene and the circumstances expressed within the compass of a sentence must not be unnecessarily changed.

In the formation of compound sentences, therefore, from simple ones, whatever cannot be grouped so as to form an harmonious picture, should be presented in a separate sentence. The following sentence shows very clearly the bad effects of a change from person to person

'The Britons left to shift for themselves, and daily harassed by cruel inroads from the Picts, were forced to call in the Saxons for their defence, who consequently reduced the great part of the island to their power, and drove the Britons into the most remote and mountainous parts, and the rest of the country, in customs, religion and language, became wholly Saxon.'

This complicated sentence, by means of some slight alterations, and a division into several sentences, will appear clear and accurate; thus,
The Britons, left to shift for themselves, and daily harassed by the cruel inroads of the Picts, were forced to call in the Saxons for their defence. But these (*the Saxons*) soon reduced the greatest part of the island under their own power, and drove the Britons to the most remote and mountainous parts. The consequence was, that the rest of the country became inhabited by a people in language, manners and religion wholly Saxon.

Rule 4th. The too frequent repetition of the same pronouns referring to different antecedents should be avoided.

The reason for this rule is, that such words being substitutes, can be used with advantage only when that to which the pronoun refers is quite obvious. The following sentence exemplifies this remark:

'One may have an air *which* proceeds from a just sufficiency and knowledge of the matter before him, *which* may naturally produce some motions of his head and body, *which* might become the bench better than the bar.'

In this sentence the pronoun '*which*' is used three times; and each time with a different antecedent. The first time that it is used its antecedent is *air*, the second time it is *sufficiency and knowledge*, and the third, *motions of the head and body*. The confusion thus introduced into the sentence may be avoided by employing *this* for the second *which*, and *such as* for the third: thus,

'One may have an air which proceeds from a just sufficiency of knowledge of the matter before him, and *this* may naturally produce some motions of the head, *such as* might become the bench better than the bar.'

Rule 5th. All redundant words and clauses should be avoided.

The reason for this rule is, that whatever does not add to the meaning of a sentence must be useless if not hurtful.*

In conclusion, it may be remarked in the words of Archbishop Whately, It is a useful admonition to young writers, that they should always attempt to recast a sentence that does not please; altering the arrangement and entire structure of it, instead of merely seeking to change one word for another. This will give a great advantage in point of copiousness also; for there may be, suppose a *substantive* (or noun) which, either because it does not fully express our meaning, or for some other reason, we wish to remove, but can find no other to supply its place. But the object may perhaps be easily accomplished by means of a verb, adverb, or other part of speech, the substitution of which implies an alteration in the construction. It is an exercise, accordingly, which may be commended as highly conducive to the improvement of style, to practise casting a sentence into a variety of different forms.

XIX.

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.†

The English Language consists of about thirty-eight thousand words. This includes, of course, not only radical words, but all derivatives; except the preterits and participles of verbs; to which must be added some few terms, which, though set down in the dictionaries, are either obsolete or have never ceased to be considered foreign. Of these, about twenty-three thousand, or nearly five-eighths, are of Anglo-Saxon origin. The majority of the rest, in what proportion we cannot say, are Latin and Greek; Latin, however, has the larger share. The names of the greater part of the objects of sense, in other words, the terms which occur most frequently in discourse, or which recall the most vivid conceptions, are Anglo-Saxon. Thus, for example, the names of the most striking objects in visible nature, of the chief agencies at work there, and of the changes which we pass over it, are Anglo-Saxon. This language has given names to the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, and stars; to three out of the four elements, earth, fire, and water; three out of the four seasons, spring, summer, and winter; and, indeed, to all the natural divisions of time, except one; as, day, night, morning, evening, twilight, noon, mid-day, midnight, sunrise, sunset; some of which are amongst the most poetical terms we have. To the same language we are indebted for the names of light, heat, cold, frost, rain, snow, hail, sleet, thunder, lightning, as well as almost all those objects which form the component parts of the beautiful in external scenery, as sea and land, hill and dale, wood and stream, &c. It is from this language we derive the words which are expressive of the earliest and dearest connexions, and the strongest and most powerful feelings of nature; and which are, consequently, invested with

* See page 71, where the term Redundancy is separately considered.

† The account here given is from the "Edinburgh Review," of October 1839. See, also, pages 34 to 40, on the subject of Derivation.

our oldest and most complicated associations. It is this language which has given us names for father, mother, husband, wife, brother, sister, son, daughter, child, home, kindred, friends. It is this which has furnished us with the greater part of those metonymies, and other figurative expressions, by which we represent to the imagination, and that in a single word, the reciprocal duties and enjoyments of hospitality, friendship, or love. Such are hearth, roof, fireside. The chief emotions, too, of which we are susceptible, are expressed in the same language, as love, hope, fear, sorrow, shame; and, what is of more consequence to the orator and the poet, as well as in common life, the outward signs by which emotion is indicated are almost all Anglo-Saxon; such are tear, smile, blush, to laugh, to weep, to sigh, to groan. Most of those objects, about which the practical reason of man is employed in common life, receive their names from the Anglo-Saxon. It is the language, for the most part, of business; of the counting-house, the shop, the market, the street, the farm; and, however miserable the man who is fond of philosophy or abstract science might be, if he had no other vocabulary but this, we must recollect that language was made not for the few, but the many, and that portion of it which enables the bulk of a nation to express their wants and transact their affairs, must be considered of at least as much importance to general happiness, as that which serves the purpose of philosophical science. Nearly all our national proverbs, in which it is truly said, so much of the practical wisdom of a nation resides, and which constitute the manual and *vade mecum* of "hobnailed" philosophy, are almost wholly Anglo-Saxon. A very large proportion (and that always the strongest) of the language of invective, humor, satire, colloquial pleasantry, is Anglo-Saxon. Almost all the terms and phrases by which we most energetically express anger, contempt, and indignation, are of Anglo-Saxon origin.* The Latin contributes most largely to the language of polite life, as well as to that of polite literature. Again, it is often necessary to convey ideas, which, though not truly and properly offensive in themselves, would, if clothed in the rough Saxon, appear so to the sensitive modesty of a highly refined state of society; dressed in Latin, these very same ideas shall seem decent enough. There is a large number of words, which, from the frequency with which they are used, and from their being so constantly in the mouths of the vulgar, would not be endured in polished society, though more privileged synonymes of Latin origin, or some classical circumlocution, expressing exactly the same thing, shall pass unquestioned.

There may be nothing dishonest, nothing really vulgar about the old Saxon word, yet it would be thought as uncouth in a drawing-room, as the ploughman to whose rude use it is abandoned.† Thus, the word

* One of the most distinguished orators and writers of the present age is remarkable for the Saxon force and purity of his language. He seldom uses an Anglicized Latin word, when a pure English expression is at hand. This will account, in some degree, for the strength of his language and the vehemence of his style. The reader scarcely needs to be informed, that reference is here made to the late Secretary of State, Hon. Daniel Webster.

† To what is here said of the Saxon, may be added a short extract from Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe," in a dialogue between the jester and the swineherd. (Vol. I. p. 25. S. H. Parker's edition.)

"stench" is lavendered over into *unpleasant effluvia*, or an *ill odor*, "sweat," diluted into four times the number of syllables, becomes a very offensive thing in the shape of "perspiration."* To "squint" is softened into obliquity of vision; to be "drunk" is vulgar; but, if a man be simply intoxicated or inebriated, it is comparatively venial. Indeed, we may say of the classical names of vices, what Burke more questionably said of vices themselves, "that they lose half their deformity by losing all their grossness." In the same manner, we all know that it is very possible for a medical man to put to us questions under the seemingly disguise of scientific phraseology and polite circumlocution, which, if expressed in the bare and rude vernacular, would almost be as nauseous as his draughts and pills. Lastly; there are many thoughts which gain immensely by mere novelty and variety of expression. This the judicious poet, who knows that the connexion between thoughts and words is as intimate as that between body and spirit, well understands. There are thoughts in themselves trite and common-place, when expressed in the hackneyed terms of common life, which, if adorned by some graceful or felicitous novelty of expression, shall assume an unwonted air of dignity and elegance. What was trivial, becomes striking; and what was plebeian, noble.

* See Euphemism.

 XX.

PERIPHRASE, PERIPHRAISIS, OR CIRCUMLOCUTION, EUPHEMISM AND ANTONOMASIA.

Periphrase, periphrasis, and circumlocution, are words all meaning the same thing, and are equivalent to what is gener-

"How call you these grunting brutes running about on their fore legs?" demanded Wamba.

"Swine, fool, swine," said the herd; "every fool knows that."

"And swine is good Saxon," said the jester. "But how call you the sow, when she is flayed and drawn up by the heels like a traitor?"

"Pork," answered the swineherd.

"I am very glad every fool knows that, too," said Wamba; "and pork, I think, is good Norman French; and so when the brute lives, and is in the charge of a Saxon slave, she goes by her Saxon name; but becomes a Norman and is called *pork*, when she is carried to the Castle-hall to feast among the nobles. There is old alderman *Ox*, continues to hold his Saxon epithet, while he is under the charge of serfs and bondmen; but becomes *Beef*, when he arrives before the worshipful jaws that are destined to consume him. *Calf*, too, becomes *Veal*, in the like manner; he is Saxon when he requires tendance, and takes a Norman name, when he becomes matter of enjoyment."