

Example 2d.

Oh time! time! it is fit thou shouldst thus strike thy murderer to the heart! How art thou fled forever! A month Oh for a single week! I ask not for years! though an age were too little for the much I have to do!

LII.

VISION.

Vision, another figure of speech, proper only in animated and warm compositions, is produced, when, instead of relating something that is past, we use the present tense of the verb, and describe the action or event as actually now in sight.

In tragedy, vision is the language of the most violent passion which conjures up spectres, and approaches to insanity.

Example 1st.

[Cicero, in his fourth oration against Cataline, pictures to his mind the consummation of the conspiracy, as follows:]

I seem to myself to behold this city, the ornament of the earth, and the capital of all nations, suddenly involved in one conflagration. I see before me the slaughtered heaps of citizens, lying unburied in the midst of their ruined country. The furious countenance of Cethegus rises to my view, while with a savage joy, he is triumphing in your miseries.

Example 2d.

Methought I heard a voice
Cry, Sleep no more! Macbeth doth murder sleep.

Example 3d.

Avaunt and quit my sight!
Let the earth hide thee; thy bones are marrowless;

Thy blood is cold; thou hast no speculation
In those eyes which thou dost stare with.
Hence, horrible shadow; unreal mockery, hence!

LIII.

CLIMAX.

Climax consists in an artful exaggeration of all the circumstances of some object or action, which we wish to place in a strong light. It operates by a gradual rise of one circumstance above another, till our idea is raised to the highest pitch.

A speaker makes an assertion which he feels is not strong enough for his thought;—he adds another, and another, until he reaches that point which his mind contemplates to be sufficiently expressive; and then the climax (or *climbing*) ends.

Example 1st.

Boisterous in speech, in action prompt and bold,
He buys, he sells, he steals, he kills for gold.

Example 2d.

[The following is part of an address, in the case of a woman who was accused of murdering her own child.]

Gentlemen, if one man had any how slain another; if an adversary had killed his opposer; or a woman occasioned the death of her enemy; even these criminals would have been capitally punished by the Cornelian law. But, if this guiltless infant, who could make no enemy, had been murdered by its own nurse; what punishment would not the mother have demanded? With what cries and exclamations would she have stunned your ears? What shall we say, then, when a woman, guilty of homicide; a mother, of the murder of her innocent child, hath comprised all those misdeeds in one single crime; a crime, in its own nature detestable; in a woman prodigious; in a mother incredible; and perpetrated against one, whose age called for compassion; whose near relation claimed affection and whose innocence deserved the highest favor?*

* Such regular Climaxes, however, though they have great beauty, yet

Example 3d.

The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temple, the great globe itself,
Yea, all that it inhabits, shall dissolve,
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind.

Example 4th.

When we have practised good actions awhile they become easy; and when they are easy, we begin to take pleasure in them; and when they please us, we do them frequently; and by frequency of acts they grow into a habit.

Example 5th.

And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity

Example 6th.

It is a crime to put a Roman citizen in bonds; it is the height of guilt to scourge him; little less than parricide to put him to death; what name, then, shall I give to the act of crucifying him?

at the same time have the appearance of art and study; and, therefore, though they may be admitted into formal harangues, yet they are not the language of passion, which seldom proceeds by steps so regular.

Climax and Antithesis are sometimes united, as in the following

Example.

Pride still is aiming at the blest abodes,
Men would be angels, angels would be gods;
Aspiring to be gods, if angels fell,
Aspiring to be angels, men rebel.

Climax is nearly related to Hyperbole, and differs from it chiefly in degree. The purpose of Hyperbole is to exalt our conceptions beyond the truth: of Climax, to elevate our ideas of the truth itself, by a series of circumstances, ascending one above another in respect of importance, and all pointing toward the same object. This figure, when properly introduced and displayed, affords a very sensible pleasure. It accords with our disposition to enlarge our conceptions of any object that we contemplate; it affords a gratification similar to what we receive on ascending an eminence, situated in the centre of a rich and varied landscape, where every step we proceed presents a grander and more extensive prospect.

LIV.

ANTICLIMAX.

The descent from great things to small is termed anticlimax. It is the opposite of climax, and is found principally in ludicrous compositions.

Examples.

1. And thou, Dalhousie, the great god of war,
Lieutenant-colonel to the Earl of Mar.
2. Under the tropic is our language spoke,
And part of Flanders hath received our yoke.

LV.

ALLUSION.

Allusion is that figure by which some word or phrase in a sentence calls to mind, as if accidentally, another similar or analogous subject.

Allusions, though different in form from comparisons, are of the same nature, and their introduction depends on similar principles. Like comparisons, they are illustrative, and give us pleasure from the discovery of unexpected resemblances, or coincidences of thought or expression. In making allusions, care should always be taken, that what is alluded to should be generally known.*

Examples.

1. You cannot be to them "Vich Ian Vohr," and these

* The student who would see this figure beautifully illustrated, is referred to Newman's Rhetoric.

three magic words are the only "open sesame" to their feelings and sympathies.

[Here the words "open sesame" recall to mind the charm by which the robbers' dungeon, in the Arabian tale, * was opened.]

2. There are many religionists of the present day who make it their *shibboleth* to be able to tell the precise moment when the heart was converted to God. †

3. I was surrounded with difficulties, and possessed no *clue* by which I could effect my escape. ‡

[Exercises may readily be framed by the student who attentively considers the close resemblance of this figure to Simile or Comparison.]

LVI.

IRONY.

Irony is the intentional use of words which express a sense contrary to that which the writer or speaker means to convey, as when we say of one unskilled in grammar, "Admirable grammarian!"

When irony is so strong as to be termed bitter or cutting, it is Sarcasm. Irony turns things into ridicule, in a peculiar manner; it consists in laughing at an individual, under the disguise of appearing to praise or speak well of him.

The proper subjects of irony are vices and follies of all kinds; and this mode of exposing them is often more effectual than serious reasoning. The figure is, however, sometimes used on the most solemn occasions, as will be seen by the following:

Example 1st.

Cry aloud, for he is a god: either he is talking, or he is pur-

* The Forty Thieves.

† See the Book of Judges, chapter xii., verses 5, 6.

‡ See the story of *Ariadne*, in Lempriere's Classical Dictionary. In the use of this figure (Allusion), it may be observed that the subject to which allusion is made, should be readily perceived, and that it recompense, by its beauty or its utility, the digression necessarily made in introducing it

suings, or he is on a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awakened.

See 1 Kings, chapter xviii., verse 27.

Example 2d.

And Job answered and said, No doubt ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you.

Example of Sarcasm.

In the name of common sense, why should the Duke of Bedford think that none but of the House of Russell are entitled to the favor of the crown? Why should he imagine, that no king of England has been capable of judging of merit but King Henry the Eighth? Indeed, he will pardon me; he is a little mistaken: all virtue did not end in the first Earl of Bedford; all discernment did not lose its vision when his Creator closed his eyes. Let him remit his rigor on the disproportion between merit and reward in others; and they will make no inquiry into the origin of his fortune. They will regard with much more satisfaction, as he will contemplate with infinitely more advantage, whatever his pedigree has been dulcified, by an exposure to the influence of heaven in a long flow of generations, from the hard, acidulous, metallic tincture of the spring. It is little to be doubted, that several of his forefathers, in that long series, have degenerated into honor and virtue.

LVIII.

ALLITERATION.

Alliteration is the repetition of the same letter at the beginning of two or more words immediately succeeding each other, or at short intervals; as, bug-bear, sea-sick, and the *f* and *g* in the following line:

Fields ever fresh, and groves for ever green.

And the *l* in the following: Love laughs at locksmiths.

The return of such sounds, if not too frequent, is agreeable to the ear because the succeeding impression is made with less effort than that which precedes.

Alliteration, as well as rhyme, is useful as an aid to the memory. Hence proverbs have generally one or the other and sometimes both of these auxiliaries. Thus:

Birds of a feather
Flock together.
Fast bind,
Fast find.

The following are remarkable instances of alliteration:

The lordly lion leaves his lonely lair.

Begot by butchers, but by bishops bred,
How high his honor holds his haughty head.

How sweetly slow the liquid lay
In holy hallelujahs rose!

Let lords and ladies laugh and sing
As loudly and as light;
We beggars, too, can dance and fling
Dull care a distant flight.

Approach, thou, like the rugged Russian bear,
The armed rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger, &c.

Round rugged rocks, rude, ragged rascals ran.

Lean liquid lays, like lightly lulling lakes, &c.

These instances are not presented as models for imitation, but rather as exemplifications of the meaning of the term alliteration. It will be sufficient to observe, that alliterations at the present day have fallen into disrepute; and with good reason, lest the writer in pursuit of them should be tempted to sacrifice sense to sound. Occasionally introduced, and sparingly used, they are not perhaps obnoxious to strong objections. Kames, in his "Elements of Criticism," says: "Where two ideas are so connected as to require only a copulative, it is pleasant to find a connexion in the words that express these ideas, were it even so slight as *where both begin with the same letter*. Thus: 'The peacock, in all his pride, does not display half the color that appears in the garments of a British lady when she is dressed either for a ball, or a birth-day.'—*Spectator*, No. 265. Again: 'Had not my log of a steward run away as he did, without making up his accounts, I had still been immersed in *sin* and *seacoal*.'—*Ibid*, No. 530.

"My life's companion, and my bosom friend,
One faith, one fame, one fate shall both attend."*

The following is presented as a literary curiosity:

ALPHABETICAL ALLITERATION.

THE BUNKER HILL MONUMENT CELEBRATION

Americans arrayed and armed attend;
Beside battalions bold, bright beauties blend.

Exercises.

The student may change the terms in the following expressions, so as to present instances of alliteration. A word of similar meaning may, in each phrase or sentence, be substituted, so as to exemplify the figure.

The royal lion.
The songs of love.
The pride of the sons of kings.
One belief, one fame, one destiny shall attend both.
The flowing lays.
How the brilliant lake shines.
His proud head shall bow.
The deceitful tiger.
The heedful cat.
He forsakes his solitary lair.
By royal prelates commended.
In sacred hallelujahs listened to.
Let noblemen and high-born ladies laugh and sing.
Birds of the same plumage assemble together.
The falling towers with curling ivy bound.
Yet would the village commend my wondrous power.
And the blithe grandsire skilled in gestic lore
As frisked beneath the load of fourscore.

LVIII.

PARAPHRASE OR EXPLANATION.

A *paraphrase* is an *explanation* of some maxim or passage in a book in a more clear and ample manner than is ex

Chiefs, clergy, citizens conglomerate,—
Detesting despots, —daring deeds debate.
Each eye emblazoned ensigns entertain,—
Flourishing from far, —fan freedom's flame.
Guards greeting guards grown grey, — guest greeting guest
High-minded heroes, hither, homeward, haste;
Ingenuous juniors join in jubilee,
Kith kenning kin, — kind knowing kindred key.
Lo, lengthened lines lend Liberty liege love,
Mixed masses marshalled, *Monumentward* move.
Note noble navies near; — no novel notion;
Oft, our oppressors overawed old Ocean;
Presumptuous princes, pristine patriots, paled,
Queen's quarrel questing quotas, quondam, quailed
Rebellion roused, revolting ramparts rose,
Stout spirits, smiting servile soldiers, strove.

These thrilling themes, to thousands truly told,
Usurpers' unjust usages unfold.
Victorious vassals, var'nings vainly veiled.
Where, willsincere, Webster, warlike Warren, walled.

'Xcuse 'xpletives 'xtraqueer 'xpressed,
Yielding Yankee yeoman zest.

pressed in the words of the author. It is in fact a translation of the author's meaning into simpler language, accompanied with such explanations as will serve to render the passage easily intelligible. The author's words, therefore, are not so strictly followed as his sense.

Maxims, proverbs,* and texts of Scripture often contain much meaning in few words. To present them in a clear light, and to explain them in all their bearings, is the province of the preacher and the didactic writer; who thus calls in the paraphrase to their aid for the benefit of illustration.

Example 1st.

"Ne sutor ultra crepidam."

"Let not the shoemaker go beyond his last." These were the words of Apelles to a Crispin, (a shoemaker) who properly found fault with an ill-painted slipper in one of the pictures of Apelles; but, ascending to other parts, betrayed the grossest ignorance. The proverb implies that no man should pass his opinion in a province of art, where he is without a qualification.

Example 2d.

Dionysius, the tyrant of Sicily, stripped the statue of Jupiter of a robe of massy gold, and substituted a cloak of wool, saying, Gold is too cold in winter, and too heavy in summer, — *It behoves us to take care of Jupiter.* From this incident we see that the first consideration with a knave, is how to help himself, and the second, how to do it with an appearance of helping others.

Example 3d.

A Scottish proverb says, "Coeks are free of horse-corn." This saying implies that people are liberal or profuse of what belongs to another.

Example 4th.

Use a cat to the churn, and she will call it custom. This

* A proverb is a short sentence, expressing a well-known truth or common fact, ascertained by experience or observation. A maxim is a principle generally received or admitted as true. It may here be remarked that proverbs, parables and fables are easily converted the one into the other. — [See Booth's Principles, p. 161.] It will be a useful exercise for the student to attempt to convert examples 3d and 4th below into a comparison and a fable.

proverb implies that if you accustom your servants or other folks, to make too frequent use of what is yours, they will think, at last, that they have acquired a right to it.

LIX.

OUTLINES IN NARRATIVE.

A simple story is here related, with outlines of the same story in different language, which the student may fill out so as to present the same story, with all the circumstances.

Examples.

When the city of Troy was taken by the Greeks, after the first fury of plunder was over, the conquerors, pitying the misfortunes of their captives caused it to be proclaimed, that every free citizen had the liberty of taking away any one thing which he valued most: upon which Æneas, neglecting every thing else, only carried away with him his household gods. The Greeks, delighted with his piety, gave him permission to carry away with him any other thing he had the greatest regard for; and immediately he took upon his shoulders his aged father, who had grown decrepit, and was carrying him out of the town. The Greeks, struck with his filial duty, gave him leave to take every thing that belonged to him; declaring that Nature itself would not suffer them to be enemies to such as shewed so great piety to the gods, and so great reverence to their parents.

The Outline.

The city of Troy _____ thirst for plunder was _____ made proclamation _____ that every free-born citizen _____ prized the most. Æneas disregarding _____ his household gods. The Greeks pleased _____ any other thing. _____ his aged and venerable father. The Greeks admiring _____ every thing that he _____ Nature itself _____ ungenerous _____ respect _____ filial regard _____.

The outline filled out.

The city of Troy having been captured by the Greeks, when their thirst for plunder was partly satiated, commiserating the misfortunes of their captives

they made proclamation throughout the unfortunate city that every free born citizen might select from the ruins any one thing which he prized the most. Aeneas, disregarding his houses, his goods, and valuable possessions, took only his household gods. The Greeks pleased with his regard for the objects of his religious worship, gave him permission to add any other thing among his possessions to these objects of his primary regard; upon which he immediately took his aged and venerable father upon his shoulders, who, from the infirmities of age, was unable to escape without assistance. While the pious son was thus carrying his father from the ruins, the Greeks, admiring his disinterested filial reverence for his helpless parent, gave him permission to add to what he had already taken, every thing that he owned, declaring that Nature itself would not permit them to be ungenerous to one who had exhibited such respect to the dead and such filial regard for the being to whom he owed his existence.

Exercises.

1.

Sir William Gascoigne was the Chief Justice of England in the reign of Henry 4th. His presence of mind and his great dignity were most nobly exhibited when the Prince of Wales determined to rescue one of his servants, who was on trial before the Judge, presumed to interrupt and even to strike the Chief Justice. Gascoigne supported the character of his station against the bold aggression, and committed the prince to prison, to await the pleasure of the King his father. The King heard of the circumstance with becoming propriety, and thanked God that he had given him a judge who knew how to administer justice, and a son who could obey it.

Outline.

One of the servants of _____ was tried before _____ and condemned, notwithstanding all the interest _____ by the King's son. The Prince of Wales was so incensed _____ . The judge _____ dignity of his _____ ordered _____ and the prince _____ insult he had offered _____ of the laws _____ quietly _____ gaol. The King his father _____ . Happy is the King _____ courage to execute the laws _____ a son _____ submit.

2.

A painter was desirous of drawing an elephant in an unusual attitude with his trunk erect, and his mouth open; and, in order to induce the beast to show himself to more advantage, engaged a person to stand by, and throw fruit into his mouth. The person, however, partly to deceive the unsuspecting animal, often kept in his hand the fruit which he pretended to give to the elephant; who, not liking the mockery, and supposing the innocent painter to be the cause, threw out of his trunk such a quantity of water upon his paper, as entirely spoiled his sketch, and prevented him from proceeding in his work.

Outline.

An artist _____ uncommon _____ raised _____ open _____ procured _____ and loss _____ in order to make _____ advantageous _____ . The foolish _____ deceive _____ amuse _____ made _____ kept the fruit _____ . The sagacious _____ not relishing _____ and believing _____ collected _____ which he discharged _____ entirely spoiling _____ and preventing _____

3.

A gentleman, residing at Gosport, England, was, when visiting Portsmouth, usually accompanied by his dog, in the ferry-boat. One day, it so happened, that the dog lost his master somewhere in Portsmouth, and surmising that he had re-crossed the water for Gosport, sped his way to the house of a bookseller in High street, and by every possible means intimated his misfortune. "What," exclaimed the shopman, "you have lost your master, have you? Well, here is a penny, for your fare across the water." The dog snatched up the coin, ran directly to Point Beach, dropped the penny into the hand of the waterman, and was ferried across with the other passengers.

A resident at _____ wherever he went _____ attended _____ who _____ with him. _____ It chanced _____ was missing _____ and supposing _____ returned _____ speedily _____ and by _____ that instinct _____ . Have you lost _____ ? Well _____ some money _____ seizing _____ made _____ and paying _____ was conveyed _____ .

 LX.

CONNECTED NARRATIVE, FROM SCATTERED FACTS.

The selection of incidents to be presented in a narration or a description, requires some taste as well as judgment. The union of such incidents in a connected narrative is not altogether a mechanical exertion. The order of time should be strictly observed. Subordinate to the order of time, is the order of the circumstances themselves. It is perhaps a good general rule, as in the case of the arrangement of the members of a sentence, to reserve the most important for the last. But the application of this rule must be submitted to the taste and judgment, as well as the design of the writer.

Exercises.

1.

[The following particulars are presented to be united in a connected narrative. The expressions may be changed, as it may be necessary to weave the circumstances together in one continued narration.]

History furnishes no parallel to the character of Washington.
 Washington died, after a short illness, on the 14th of December, 1799
 He captured Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, in 1781.
 This event established the independence of the United States.
 On the 25th of December, 1776, he crossed the Delaware, and soon gained the important battles of Trenton and Princeton.
 He was elected President of the United States in 1789
 He was President for eight years.
 He was again chosen Commander-in-chief of the American army in 1798.
 His abilities were first exercised by Dinwiddie in 1753.
 He was the Aid-de-camp of Gen. Braddock in 1755.
 After resigning the Presidency he retired to Mount Vernon, where he devoted himself to the pursuits of agriculture.
 He was born in 1732, in the county of Fairfax, in Virginia.
 He was descended from an English family, which emigrated from Weshire about 1630.
 He received his education from a private tutor

2.

William Penn lost his wife in 1694, and was much afflicted by the event.
 He married again in about two years, and employed himself in traveling over Ireland as a preacher of the peculiar doctrines of his sect.
 In 1699 he visited America with his wife and family, and returned to England in 1701.
 He died at Rushcomb, near Twyford, in Berks, July 30th, 1718.
 He was buried at Jordan, near Beaconsfield, Bucks.
 His character was truly benevolent and humane, and his labors were exerted for the good of mankind.
 The long prosperity of Pennsylvania furnishes the best evidence of his wisdom as a legislator.
 He was born in London in 1644.
 He was expelled from College on account of his religious opinions.
 His religious opinions differed widely from those of the Established Church.
 The College was of the same religious sentiments with the Established Church.
 His father left him an estate worth 1500 pounds per annum.
 Charles 2d, King of England, granted him a province of North America, then called New Netherlands; but now, from William Penn, called Pennsylvania.
 When he was in College, he withdrew from the national forms of wor-

ship with other students, who, like himself, had listened to the preaching of Thomas Loe, a quaker of eminence.

In 1672 he married a lady of principles similar to his own, and fixed his residence at Rickmansworth, where he labored hard to disseminate the principles of his sect both by his preachings and his writings.

In 1682 he came out to America for the first time, and laid out the city of Philadelphia, where he invited settlers from all parts of England, and held out to them a greater degree of religious liberty under his constitution than had ever before been enjoyed by any sect or people.

LXI.

NARRATION EXPANDED.*

Example.

At the battle of Philippi, Lucilius wishing to give his intimate friend Brutus an opportunity to escape, pretended himself to be Brutus, and being led before Anthony, boldly avowed the artifice. Anthony, admiring his fidelity to his friend, informed him of the death of Brutus, and offered him his friendship. Lucilius accepted the offer, and continued his faithful friend.

Same story expanded.

At the battle of Philippi, when Brutus, after the route of his army, was in danger of falling into the hands of his enemies, his bosom friend Lucilius gave him an opportunity to escape, calling out, "I am Brutus! lead me to Anthony!" Being conducted to Anthony, he spoke with great resolution: "I have employed this artifice," said he, "that Brutus might not fall alive into the hands of his enemies. The gods will never permit that fortune shall triumph so far over virtue. In spite of fortune, Brutus will always be found, dead or alive, in a situation worthy of his courage." Anthony, admiring the firmness of Lucilius, said to him, "you merit a greater recompense than it is in my power to bestow. I have been just now informed of the death of Brutus; and as your fidelity to him is now at an end, I beg earnestly to be received in his place; love me as you did him, I wish no more." Lucilius embraced the offer, engaged himself

* The plan in narrative writing is simply the statement of events in the order of their occurrence; and the expansion is the mention, with varying degrees of minuteness of their statement, of the different circumstances connected with these events, accompanied by incidental remarks and reflections.