

existence. A concrete term is one, the idea of which can be obtained directly through the senses.

The manner in which we arrive at the idea of an abstract term is the following:—Suppose several objects to be presented before us. Amongst these we discover some one quality which is common to each of them. We direct our attention towards this quality till at length we draw it away from the objects altogether and think of it as something having an existence entirely independent of that to which it belongs. The operation of the mind required in this process is called abstraction, hence the terms arrived at in this way are called abstract terms.

IV. Discuss, correcting or justifying:—

(a.) No laws are better than the English laws.

(b.) That is applied to persons as well as things.

(c.) Personification is when we ascribe sentiments or action to inanimate beings or abstract qualities.

(d.) He never doubts but that he knows their intention.

(e.) Every thought and every feeling are opposed to it.

(f.) Than whom none higher sat.

(g.) What sort of a looking man is he?

ANSWERS:—

(a.) This sentence is ambiguous; it may mean that the absence of all law is better than the English law, or that there are no laws existing better than the English laws. The latter is probably the meaning intended, therefore we may change the construction and word it thus: "There are no laws superior to the English laws."

(b.) The present form of this sentence would imply that things are applied to persons as well as "that." better, "That is applied to persons as well as to things."

(c.) "Personification is when," an

indefinite way of beginning a definition, also, the relation of the phrase "or abstract qualities" is ambiguous. "By personification we ascribe life sentiments or action to inanimate beings or to abstract qualities."

(d.) "He never doubts that he knows their intention."

(e.) "Every thought and every feeling is opposed to it." Two or more nouns connected by *and* and preceded by *each*, *every*, *no*, require a verb in the singular.

(f.) "Than who none higher sat"—None sat higher than who sat high.

(g.) "What sort of looking man is he." This form of expression is, however, inelegant and should be avoided.

V. Write notes on the words italicized in the following sentences:—

(a.) *My being here* it is that holds thee hence.—*Shak.*

(b.) I remember *meeting him*.

(c.) *Lady Macbeth walking* in her sleep is an incident full of tragic horror.

(d.) His *teaching* children was necessary.

ANSWERS:—

(a.) *My* is a possessive pronoun, in attributive relation to the noun *being*. *Being* is a verbal noun; but the whole expression *my being here* must be taken together and regarded as the predicate nominative after the verb *is*. *Here* is an adverb modifying *being* in its verbal capacity.

(b.) *Meeting* is a gerund, because it is not only used as a noun, but also admits of an object after it. It is the object of *remember*. *Him* is the object of the word *meeting*.

(c.) *Lady Macbeth* is the grammatical subject; *walking* is a present participle, because, besides its office as a verb, it expresses quality and is used in attributive relation to *Lady Macbeth*. The logical subject of *is* is the whole phrase, *Lady Macbeth walking in her sleep*.