

CHAPTER XLVI.

THE IMPERATIVE.

§ 236. The imperative expresses a command, a request, or an exhortation; it has two tenses, the present and the future. The present expresses a command in general, or one that is to be obeyed at once; while the future imperative expresses a command that a thing shall be done in future or when an occasion shall occur, as:

<i>Catilina, perge quo coepisti, egrederere ex urbe, proficiscere.</i>	Catiline, proceed to the place to which you have begun to go, quit the city, start.
<i>Iustitiam cole et pietatem.</i>	Honour justice and piety
<i>Cras petito, dabitur, nunc abi.</i>	Ask to-morrow, and it will be granted, now go away.
<i>Prius audite paucis, quod quum dixero, si placuerit facitote.</i>	First listen to a few words, and when I have spoken, you shall do it, if you please.

The future imperative from its very nature is the form employed in laws, contracts, wills, and the like, as:

<i>Hominem mortuum in urbe sepelito neve urito.</i>	Thou shalt neither bury nor burn a dead man in the city.
<i>Nocturna sacrificia ne sunt.</i>	There shall be no nocturnal sacrifices.
<i>Salus populi suprema lex esto.</i>	The safety of the people shall be the highest law.

§ 237. Instead of the imperative, the second and third persons of the subjunctive may be used to express an exhortation rather than a command; the second person singular is used more especially when an indefinite person is spoken to—e.g.:

<i>Valeant cives mei, sint beati, haec urbs praeclara mihi que patria carissima.</i>	Farewell to my fellow-citizens, let them be happy, let this city, so glorious and to me most dear as my native place, flourish.
<i>Quidquid agis, prudenter agas et respice finem.</i>	Whatever you do, do cautiously and look to the end.