

II

The student should practise himself in such restatements of sentences. Control over sentence forms is a necessary element in vigorous writing. Apart from such practice and attention to the matter in your own compositions, the great source of this ease and variety in sentence-structure is familiarity with good books.

1. Vary in as many ways as possible the construction of the following sentences :

(1) Reflecting on what was passed, I wavered in my original purpose. (2) To put this letter into his hand will be a kindness to both of them. (3) The great prairies stretched before me, illuminated by the rays of the setting sun. (4) Long before we saw the sea, its spray showered salt rain upon us. (5) Joining these groups I found the women of the village bewailing the fate of their husbands. (6) Grizzled old sailors were among the ships, shaking their heads as they look from water to sky. (7) As the high watery walls came rolling in, they looked as if the least would engulf the town. (8) We set out in the evening by moonlight, and travelled hard, the road being very plain and large, till we came to Grantham. (9) I hastily ordered my dinner, and went back to the yard. (10) At length my restlessness attained such a pitch that I hurried on my clothes and went down stairs. (11) One mast was broken off short and lay over the side, entangled in a maze of sail and rigging. (12) After the great victory of Blenheim the enthusiasm of the army for the Duke amounted to a sort of rage. (13) It was late in the dusk of evening when Tom Walker reached the old fort.

2. Vary the order of words and clauses without destroying the meaning and clearness of the following sentences, and note how the change of order alters the emphasis.

(1) The hopes which men have built upon their works are vain. (2) I cannot do one and I will not do the other. (3)