

P. I cannot see any thing.

T. Why cannot you see any thing?

P. I cannot see through the shutters.

T. What difference do you observe between the shutters and the glass?

P. I cannot see through the shutters, but I can see through the glass.

T. Can you tell me any word that will express the quality which you observe in the glass?

P. No.

T. I will tell you, then; pay attention that you may recollect it. It is transparent. What do you now understand when I tell you that a substance is transparent?

P. That you can see through it.

T. You are right. Try and recollect something that is transparent.

P. Water.

T. If I were to let this glass fall, or you were to throw a ball at the window, what would be the consequence?

P. The glass would be broken. It is brittle.

T. If I used the shutter in the same way, what would be the consequence?

P. It would not break.

T. If I gave it a heavy blow with a very hard substance, what would happen?

P. It would then break.

T. Would you therefore call the wood brittle?

P. No.

T. What substances then do you call brittle?

P. Those that are easily broken.