

have been considered very incorrect to ask an immediate wedding; long engagements are the rule in Arabia, and patience is considered the distinguishing virtue of noble minds."

He returned with the Persian Pilgrims who were on their way home from Mecca. On his way northward to Meshhed Ali, near Babylon, he found that there was a gradual slope of ten feet to the mile. He passed numerous wells and reservoirs on the way, which had been built by Zobeyde, the wife of Haroun al Raschid, of *Arabian Nights* fame, for the benefit of pilgrims.

UNDER the auspices of the French Government, four expeditions will endeavour, during the present season, to penetrate into the regions through which it is proposed that the Trans-Saharan Railway should run. Of these, three will start from the side of Algeria, and the fourth from S. Louis, on the west coast of Africa.

POLITE ERRORS.—No. II.

THE correct application of the auxiliary verbs *will* and *shall* is of great importance to the sense of an expression, yet by many the rule, which clearly indicates their proper use, is but imperfectly understood. Murray says: *Will*, in the *first person, singular or plural*, intimates *resolution* and *promising*; in the *second* and *third person* only *foretells*; as "I *will* reward the good and *will* punish the wicked;" "We *will* remember benefits and be grateful;" "Thou *will*, or he *will*, repent of that folly;" "You or they *will* have a pleasant walk."

Shall, on the contrary, in the *first person*, simply *foretells*; in the *second* and *third persons*, *promises*, *commands*, or *threatens*; as "I *shall* go abroad;" "We *shall* dine at home;" "Thou *shalt* or you *shall* inherit the land;" "They *shall* account for their misconduct."

The following passage is not translated according to the distinct and proper meaning of the words *shall* and *will*: "Surely goodness and mercy *shall* follow me all the days

of my life, and I *will* dwell in the house of the Lord forever." It ought to be "*will* follow me," and "I *shall* dwell."

The *subjunctive* form of the various moods of verbs is frequently neglected when it should be employed. It is a general rule that when anything contingent, doubtful, or conditional is implied, the *subjunctive* ought to be used; as "If I *were* to strike him he would not resent it," not "If I *was*;" "He will not be pardoned unless he *repent*," not "unless he *repents*." The conjunctions, *if*, *though*, *except*, *unless*, *whether*, etc., generally require the *subjunctive* mood after them; as "If he *be* afflicted, let him not repine;" "Though he *slay* me, yet will I trust him;" "He cannot be clean *unless* he *wash* himself;" "No power, *except* it *were* given from above;" "Whether it *were* I or they, so we preach." "If he *was*," "though he *slays*," "unless he *washes*," "except it *was*," "whether it *was*," substituted in the examples above, would all be incorrect.

A valuable rule, and one that is much neglected, is taken from Murray, Volume I., page 274: "In the use of words and phrases which, *in point of time*, relate to each other, a due regard to that relation should be observed." Instead of saying "The Lord *hath* given and the Lord *hath* taken away," we should say "The Lord *gave* and the Lord *hath* taken away." Instead of "I *remember* the family more than twenty years," it should be "I *have remembered* the family more than twenty years." The following examples are irregular because a due regard is not observed in the relation of the tenses of the verbs employed: "The next New Year's day I *shall* be at school three years,"—"I *shall* have been;" "I should be obliged to him if he *will* gratify me in this case,"—"If he *would*;" "They maintained that Scripture conclusion, that all mankind *rise* from one head,"—"I *have risen* from one head;" "John *will* earn his wages when his service is completed," should be, "John *will have earned* his wages when his service *shall* be completed." Murray admits that it is not easy, in all cases, to give particular rules for the management of words and phrases which relate to one an-