

CHAPTER II

OUTLINE OF THE PARTS OF SPEECH

3. The Parts of Speech.

The sentence is a complete whole made up of two principal members, the subject and the predicate. There must, therefore, be at least two words in every sentence that can be constructed, and two principal functions for words to perform. "Flowers bloom." "Dogs bark." "Mary sang." "Stars twinkle." In these sentences, the words, *flowers*, *dogs*, *Mary*, *stars*, all serve the same purpose. Their function or use is to NAME objects about which we wish to say something. So also with the words, *bloom*, *bark*, *sang*, *twinkle*. These words have their own special work to do. They all perform the same function, namely, that of TELLING us something about *flowers*, *dogs*, *Mary* and *stars*, respectively. These are the two principal functions of words in sentences.

There are other functions to be considered besides the two principal ones. On the basis of function, words may be divided into seven classes, called PARTS OF SPEECH: NOUNS, VERBS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, CONJUNCTIONS.

The functions of the two principal parts of speech have already been mentioned. A NOUN is a word used as a name for something, as *flower*, *Mary*. A VERB is a word which tells something about some person or thing, gives a command or asks a question, as "Flowers *bloom*"; "Mary *sings*"; "Come here"; "Have you a match?"