

Adjectives.

25. We have already spoken of words and phrases *describing* or *qualifying* subjects and objects. Words that qualify nouns or pronouns are called ADJECTIVES : *e. g.*

A tall man.

Twenty soldiers.

A stormy day.

I am cold.

Adjectives have the same gender, number, and case as the words they qualify.

Ex. XV.—Pick out the *Adjectives* in the following, giving gender, number and case of each :—

- (i) Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain,
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart ?
- (ii) A nation in its youth may be helped by laws, as a weak child by blackboards, but when it is old it cannot that way straighten its crooked spine.
- (iii) A false accent or a mistaken syllable is enough, in the parliament of any civilized nation, to assign to a man a certain degree of inferior standing forever.

Participles.

26. Notice that several of the Adjectives in Ex. XV are really *parts of verbs* : *e. g.*

Rooted is from the verb to root.

Written “ “ to write.

Stuff'd “ “ to stuff,

And some parts of every verb can be used to qualify and agree with nouns, thus doing the duty of Adjectives : *e. g.* the verb “to love” has

(i) *Present Participle* loving.

(ii) *Past Participle* loved.

These *Participles* are parsed as verbs, except some that have come into very common use as adjectives and have lost their verbal force ; as

Cunning, noted, startling, etc.