

follows, "this is my business as the business of a philosopher is mine."

"You are not sure of its being John." The difficulty here is to account for the case of "John." Usage has sanctioned "its" in such sentences whereas it should be "it;" there "John" will be the objective case after "being" because there is an objective before it. If "its" be retained we must call it a possessive pronoun in the objective case governed by "of," and John will then be the objective still.

"What with the wet weather and the bad roads, I caught a severe cold." Resolve "what" as usual into "that which," and supply the ellipsis, and the whole sentence will run somewhat thus; "In consequence of *that which* took place with, &c;" the parsing of this is easy.

"A few men returned home." The parsing of the words "a few" constitutes the difficulty; "a" appears here to be placed before a plural noun, and some writers frame a rule to meet the difficulty, stating that the indefinite article is sometimes placed before a plural noun. This of course is no explanation and violates the meaning of the article. Properly "few" is used as a noun and means "small number," and "a few men" means "a small number of men." This is sufficiently evident in such phrases as "a few of them returned;" where "few" is evidently used as a noun.

"How much soever it was their interest to return soon they nevertheless made a long delay." In this sentence there are two propositions; namely, "they nevertheless made a long delay" principal one; "how much soever it was their interest to return soon" is dependent completing "made," as these propositions are coupled in sense, they must be coupled in words; the coupling words is "how" or more properly, "howsoever" which is one word, an adverbial conjunction coupling the two propositions; "much" is an adverb modifying "was."

"I am much wearied, *not to say* totally exhausted." What is the dependence or government of "not to say?" The whole sentence is? "I am much exhausted, and I express myself thus in order not to say, that I am totally exhausted," and the phrase "not to say" completes "order," say being the verbal noun