

SECTION III.—*Of the Dilemma.*

A Dilemma is a conditional Syllogism with several antecedents in the major and a disjunctive minor term. The beauty of the dilemma consists chiefly in this, that the truth of the proposition is indisputably established from either of its premises; the opponent is left no alternative, but forced to admit the inference.

Example.—"If that man were wise, he would not speak irreverently of Scripture in a jest; and, if he were virtuous, he would not do so in earnest; but he does it either in jest or earnest; therefore he is either *unwise* or *vicious*." Demosthenes in his Oration for the Crown says; "If Æschines joined in the public rejoicings, he is inconsistent; if he did not, he is unpatriotic; but he either joined in the public rejoicings, or did not; therefore he is either *inconsistent* or *unpatriotic*."

SECTION IV.—*Of the Enthymeme and Sorites.*

The Enthymeme is a kind of Syllogism with one premise expressed and the other understood. It is the ordinary form of speaking and writing; as,

"Cæsar was a tyrant; therefore he deserved death."
"A free people are happy; therefore the British are happy."

When we have a series of Syllogisms in which the conclusion of the first is made the premise of the second, and so on, till we arrive at the ultimate conclusion, it is called a *Sorites*; as,

"The British are a brave people: a brave people, are free: a free people are happy; therefore the British are happy."

SECTION V.—*Of Oratory.*

Oratory is the art of speaking justly, methodically, and elegantly upon any subject, so as to please, persuade, and instruct. A speech, made or delivered according to the rules of this art, is called an *oration*, and the speaker, an *orator*.

An *Oration* has five parts, viz, the Exordium, Narration, Confirmation, Refutation, and Peroration.

The *Exordium*, or Preamble, is the beginning of the Oration, designed to secure the attention of the hearers, gain their good opinion, and give them a general idea of the subject. It should be brief, modest, and perspicuous.

The *Narration* is a recital of facts as they occurred, or supposed to have occurred. It should be made as probable, perspicuous, interesting, and concise as possible.