

CHAPTER III

RULES OF GRAMMAR

6. Verb and Subject.

The principal members of a sentence are the subject and the predicate. The former is very often a noun, and the latter is a verb, or contains a verb. "Horses neigh." In this short sentence, *Horses*, the subject, is a noun, and the predicate is a verb. In the sentence, "The cold north wind blows drearily across the snow," the noun *wind* is the chief word in the subject, and the verb *blows* is the chief word in the predicate.

As the subject names the thing the sentence is about, and the predicate tells something about that thing, it is natural that there should be agreement between the subject and the verb in respect of those points which they have in common.

NUMBER is one of the points referred to.

There are two numbers, the SINGULAR and the PLURAL.

The SINGULAR NUMBER of a noun is the form used when one of the things denoted by the noun is spoken of, as *boy, man, child, box, mouse*.

The PLURAL NUMBER of a noun is that form which is used when we speak of more than one of the things for which the noun stands, as *boys, men, children, boxes, mice*.

There are also two numbers in *Verbs*, the SINGULAR and the PLURAL. The SINGULAR NUMBER of a Verb is the form which is used when the subject of the verb is