

These examples shew that, if the dependent clause comes first, a comma is usually required; but that sometimes one is not required if the dependent clause comes immediately after the clause on which it depends. In the former case, the word which makes the connection between the two clauses is at a distance from the words it connects; in the latter case, it stands between or at least near the words it connects.

IX.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSES.

A point is required between two independent clauses connected by a conjunction,—such as *for*, *and*, *but*, or *yet*,—in order to render it certain that the conjunction does not serve to connect the *words* between which it stands. If the sentence is a short one, and the clauses are closely connected, a comma is sufficient (*a*); in other cases, a semicolon [*;*] (*b*) or a colon [*:*] (*c*) is required.*

(*a*) I had now a mind to try how many cobwebs a single spider could furnish; wherefore I destroyed *this*, *and* the insect set about another.

(*a*) There was a lock on the door, *but* the key was gone.

(*a*) Learn to live *well*, or fairly make your will.

(*a*) The lock went *hard*, *yet* the key did open it.

(*a*) He smote the rock of the national resources, *and* abundant streams of revenue gushed forth. He touched the dead corpse of the Public Credit, *and* it sprung upon its feet.

(*b*) This was the greatest victory in that war, so fertile in great exploits; *and* it at once gave renown to the Admiral.

(*b*) So end the ancient voices of religion and learning; *but* they are silenced, only to revive more gloriously elsewhere.

* For punctuation of independent clauses not connected by a conjunction (successive short sentences), see XI., p. 549.

(*a*), (*b*) The very idea of purity and disinterestedness in politics falls into *disrepute*, *and* is considered as a vision of hot and inexperienced men; *and* thus disorders become incurable, not by the virulence of their own quality, but by the unapt and violent nature of their remedies.

(*c*), (*b*) The Mohawks were at first afraid to come: *but* in April they sent the Flemish Bastard with overtures of peace; *and* in July a large deputation of their chiefs appeared at Quebec.

(*a*), (*c*) His friends have given us materials for criticism, *and* for these we ought to be grateful; his enemies have given us negative criticism, *and* for this, up to a certain point, we may be grateful: *but* the criticism we really want neither of them has yet given us. †

X.

DEPENDENT EXPRESSIONS IN A SERIES.

Semicolons are used between expressions in a series which have a common dependence upon words at the beginning (*a*) or at the end (*b*) of a sentence.

(*a*) You could give us no commission to wrong or oppress, or even to suffer any kind of oppression or wrong, on any grounds whatsoever: not on political, as in the affairs of America; not on commercial, as in those of Ireland; not in civil, as in the laws for debt; not in religious, as in the statutes against Protestant or Catholic dissenters.

(*a*) They forget that, in England, not one shilling of paper-money of any description is received but of choice; that the whole has had its origin in cash actually deposited; and that it is convertible, at pleasure, in an instant, and without the smallest loss, into cash again.

(*a*) In this choice of inheritance we have given to our frame of polity the image of a relation in blood: binding up the Constitution of our country with our dearest domestic ties; adopting our fundamental laws into the bosom of our family affections; keeping in-

† See also XII. (*a*), p. 549.