

pletely inflected for gender, number and case. There were, however, three or four different deductions which in Chaucer's time were reduced to one, with some irregular forms.

(a) Of the case endings the ablative disappeared first; in the Old English only the accusative was left which disappears in Middle English. The genitive singular, however, has remained yet and is extended to the plural, and is the only remnant of case inflection in the noun.

(b) The inflections for number were *an* and *as*, which were in Old English used indiscriminately, and finally *as* was changed to *es* or *s*, and owing to French influence superseded the other, of which, however, we have a few isolated remnants as irregular forms, as *oxen*, *men*, etc.

(c) Gender was marked by characteristic endings in all the cases and was grammatical gender. In Old English gender followed sex; *ster* and *en*, the old feminine inflections, have been dropped, while we have borrowed *ess* from the French, but we most frequently use composition.

VIII.

Ye and *you*. Formerly *ye* was the nominative and *you* an inflection of it used in the accusative or objective. Subsequently they were used indiscriminately, and at present *ye* has followed *thou* into desuetude. It is, however, used in solemn style and poetry for the veneration and quaintness associated with it as an old form of speech. It is mostly plural and in the nominative of address, but poets, especially Scotch poets, use it in the singular. *You* is now used for the nominative or objective, the singular or the plural. Its use is also one of our modes of supplying the want of an indefinite personal pronoun. *Her* is etymologically the genitive and dative of the old feminine pronoun *heo*, which has been supplanted by *seo*, i. e., she, and as the

dative of the pronoun supplanted the objective *her* is now used as the objective. A remarkable circumstance about our English personal pronoun is that the genitive cases have all become adjectives, thus changing their part of speech and leaving the pronoun without an inflection for that case; *her* has, of course, followed this transition and when used as a noun is a possessive adjective *Its*. The remarkable feature of this word is that, while a pronoun it has the inflection of a noun. The cause of this is that it is a modern inflection used to supply the place of the old neuter use of *his*. The difficulty of distinguishing this old *his* from the masculine *his* led to various expedients "thereof" being often used, then *it* without any inflection and finally *its* was used, coming into general use in the seventh century. In the old editions of the Bible *its* does not occur, and in the present edition it occurs only once, and that is a supposed printer's emendation. It occurs in Levit. xxv. 5.

This, historically, was the neuter of the old demonstrative *thes*, *theos*, *this*, which corresponded to the Latin *hic*, *haec*, *hoc*. *That* was the neuter of *se*, *seo*, *thaet*, which corresponded to Latin *is*, *ea*, *id*. They retain their old meaning yet, generally speaking, *that* being used more often in a general sense and to refer to something distant, while *this* is more definite and refers to something near the hand. *That* has the neutral inflection "t."

Which is a compound of the old relative pronoun *hwæ* and *lic* (like). It is really an adjective and hence is often used as such yet. In the Bible it occurs preceded by the article *zhe*, an idiom derived from its objective use.

IX.

The regular form of comparison in adjectives is *er* for the comparative and *est* for the superlative. *Or* and *ost* were also formerly used but mostly are