

words "though it is," in the fifth line of this paragraph. So, too, in the first line of XIV., the parenthetical expression, "either alone or combined with other stops," is set off by commas; but, in the third and fourth lines of VI., the same expression is written without the first comma, because by the omission the expression is made to qualify "dashes" only. In the clause, "after a brief but most disastrous reign" (II. *b*), the words "but most disastrous" are parenthetical; but marks of parenthesis can well be spared, the clause is so brief.

VII.

ELLIPTICAL SENTENCES.

A comma is often required to indicate an ellipsis, (*a*); but the comma, if not needed to make the sense clear, may be dispensed with (*b*). Where the ellipsis is of the expressions *that is*, *namely*, and the like, a point is always required: in some cases a comma is to be preferred (*c*), in others a comma and dash (*d*), in others a colon (*e*).

(*a*) Admission, twenty-five cents.

(*a*) He was born at the old homestead, May 7, 1833. He always lived in Newport, Rhode Island, United States of America.

(*a*) Its political maxims are invaluable; its exhortations to love of country and to brotherly affection among citizens, touching.

(*a*) With a united government, well administered, he saw that we had nothing to fear; and without it, nothing to hope.

(*b*) On the best lines of communication the ruts were deep, the descents precipitous, and the way often such as it was hardly possible to distinguish, in the dark, from the unenclosed heath and fen which lay on both sides.

(*b*) Hancock served the cause with his liberal opulence, Adams with his incorruptible poverty.

(*c*) This scene admits of but one addition, that we are misgoverned.

(*d*) This deplorable scene admits of but one addition,—that we are governed by councils from which a reasonable man can expect no remedy but poison, no relief but death.

(*e*) One thing is sure: the bill will not pass.

In both the examples under (*b*), the insertion of commas between the italicized words would, on account of the proximity of other commas, create obscurity and offend the eye; in the third and fourth examples under (*a*), this objection does not hold.

VIII.

DEPENDENT CLAUSES.

A comma is used between two clauses, one of which depends on the other (*a*). If, however, the clauses are intimately connected in both sense and construction, the comma is often omitted (*b*).

(*a*) Though herself a model of personal beauty, she was not the goddess of beauty.

(*a*) Had a conflict once begun, the rage of their persecutors would have redoubled.

(*a*) If our will be ready, our powers are not deficient.

(*a*) As soon as his declaration was known, the whole nation was wild with delight.

(*a*) While France was waste-d by war, the English pleaded, traded, and studied in security.

(*b*) The Board may hardly be reminded that the power of expending any portion of the principal of our fund expired at the end of two years.

(*b*) And loved her as he loved the light of heaven.

(*b*) We wished to associate with the ocean until it lost the pond-like look which it wears to a countryman.

(*b*) You may go if you will.

(*b*) I doubt whether he saw the true limits of taste.

(*b*) Then Shakespeare is a genius because he can be translated into German, and not a genius because he cannot be translated into French.