

(The paradigms of these pronouns will be presented to the pupils on the blackboard and fully explained. They may then be memorized.)

6. The pronoun of the third person has not only the same distinctions as the preceding for number and case, but has *three* forms in all the cases of the singular number. By examining a few sentences such as, "Father is away, but *he* will soon be home"; "My sister is here, *she* will be glad to see you"; "The stone sank, *it* is out of sight," we are led to see that a different form is used according as the pronoun represents a being of the *male sex*, a being of the *female sex*, or an object *having no sex*, because without life. The term **gender** is employed to mark this distinction.

7. The pronoun *he*, applied to beings of the *male sex*, is said to be of the **masculine** gender. The pronoun *she*, applied to beings of the *female sex*, is said to be of the **feminine** gender. The pronoun *it*, applied to things without life, is said to be of the **neuter** gender. *Neuter* means neither.

8. Observe that the neuter *it* is also generally used to stand for the names of inferior animals, particularly when there are not distinct names for each sex; as, I will kill that snake, or *it* will hurt somebody.

9. The possessive cases of the personal pronouns are frequently regarded as *adjectives*.

10. The distinction of gender is attributed to nouns and pronouns generally, the *sex* of the *object* determining the *gender* of the *name*, according to the principles above laid down. Our language, however, really requires no reference to the matters of sex and gender, save as regards the right use of the third personal pronoun.

#### EXERCISE 1.

*Point out and classify the personal pronouns in the following sentences :—*

We saw you. She told them so. I did it. They bade her farewell. Thou hast smitten him.