

2. The **Genitive** (more correctly Genetive), denoting the class or genus to which a thing belongs, and several other relations which are expressed in English by prepositions: as *arma milit-is*, the arms of a soldier; *amor patriae*, the love of one's country.
3. The **Dative**, denoting the person to whom, or for whose advantage or disadvantage anything is or is done. In English this relation is generally expressed by the preposition to or for: as *ostendit filio*, he shows to the son; *liber puero utilis est*, the book is useful to a boy; *patri consulit*, he gives advice to the father.
4. The **Accusative**, denoting the object towards which an action is directed: as *magister docet puerum*, the master teaches the boy.
5. The **Vocative** is used in addressing a person or a thing: as *O dii immortales*, O ye immortal gods!
6. The **Ablative** expresses various relations, as those of separation, cause, manner, instrument, time, place, &c., which are expressed in English by the prepositions from, by, with, in, at, &c.

NOTE.—The Sanscrit, the oldest of the Aryan languages, has two cases more, the *Locative* and the *Instrumental*; the forms of these cases being lost in Latin, with very few exceptions, their functions have been assigned to the dative and ablative, which, for this reason, express a greater variety of relations than the other cases.

§ 15. Latin, like English substantives, have two numbers, the **Singular** and the **Plural**; and in each number they have the six cases mentioned above, so that every noun might have twelve different endings, six for the singular and six for the plural.

§ 16. All substantives are declined in one of five ways, whence it is said that there are **Five Declensions**. Words of which the genitive singular ends in *ae* are said to belong to the first declension, those of which the genitive ends in *i* to the second, those of which the genitive ends in *is* to the third, those of which the genitive ends in *ūs* to the fourth, and those of which the genitive ends in *ei* to the fifth.

NOTE.—This rule, though repeated in nearly all grammars, is utterly unscientific. The declension of a noun depends entirely upon the final letter of its stem, and the number of declensions might be reduced to two—viz., the vowel declension, comprising what are com-