

ous construction already adduced, in which "will" is improperly substituted for "shall;" "If the timber duties be altered, we shall be ruined,"—"If the City become bankrupt, we shall have to pay the debt," &c.—In all such cases, there is no volition or personal power left in the persons speaking: the whole result will be the inevitable effect of the previous occurrence; it is what *must* happen, independently of the will of the parties, as a natural consequence of the preceding contingency.

Lastly, the following examples of the use of "shall" and "will" in the second and third persons will sufficiently illustrate the rule already laid down, with regard to their altered effect in those persons. "If the ship arrives, we will be fortunate,"—"if times improve, they will recover their losses,"—"let fortune smile, you will forget your troubles,"—"only persevere, and you will succeed."—In all these cases, the auxiliary "will" is used in the second and third persons, and therefore only foretells probable result, wholly dependent on a precedent contingency, and subject to no volition of the party spoken of. On the other hand, the positive, peremptory determination,—the absolute intention of the speaker, when referring to the subsequent actions of other persons, expressed by the use of "shall" in the second and third persons,—thus;—"He shall do this,"—"You shall pay me immediately,"—"They shall comply with my terms."

To these expositions must be added, that in asking a question, the use of "shall and will" is reversed. "Shall" only can then be used in the first person, as implying doubt, and asking permission. Thus, "shall I go?" is a correct question, importing enquiry as to whether I may go or not; for, if I absolutely intended to go, without reference to the will of another, it would be absurd to ask any question about the matter; and therefore the phrase "will I go," so commonly heard among us, is incorrect, since it is, in fact, the speaker asking himself what his own will or volition is, which is ridiculously superfluous. On the other hand, "will" must be used in the second and third persons, as "will he go?"—"will they go?"—which is a question, enquiring as to the volition or determination of others; in which cases, "shall" would be improper, as it would have no reference to the will of the parties alluded to. The only case in which "shall" can be used, in the second and third persons, in asking a question, is when three distinct parties are concerned in the action;

that is, when one party asks a second party to give permission for a third party. As, if A. asks B. whether C. shall do so and so.*

My limits warn me now to close the subject, leaving untouched the *third* and *fourth* classes alluded to, viz., of errors of pronunciation and mere vulgarisms, as well as numerous other examples which might have been classified with those already adduced. But the fear of too far transgressing the allotted time, and wearying your patience with so dry a subject, precludes me from extending the present lecture. Such common errors as using the personal pronoun "them" for the demonstrative "those," as "them ships," "them trees" &c., for "those ships, those trees," &c.; of pronouncing "engine" for "engine," "genuine" for "gen-uine," "helem" for "helm," "realen" for "realm," "commonality" for "commonalty," "hor-izon" for "horizon," and numerous similar corruptions, scarcely require more than brief demonstration to ensure their correction; but their number would far exceed the limits of our present time and space. I would now merely, therefore, for the sake of contrast, (inasmuch as I have treated on various errors individually, without displaying their united effect in conversation,) throw together a few examples of corrupt phraseology in a connected paragraph, to enable you to judge of the difference between a correct and legitimate style, and a vitiated and careless mode of speech. For instance, in the following sentences:—

"I guess, if I progress much further in this *here* style, I should learn you a few notions more than you *calculated*; and if I was to go on *fixing* such matters, and shewing you how you *conduct*, it would astonish you *some*; and then if you *was* to flare up, it would be *grand*, wouldn't it? But as I only want to be a little *humoursome*, you must not turn *ugly* about it, or else we shall get into a pretty *fix*. So, as you and I are *considerable smart, clever* folks, and want to do every thing *handsome*, I guess we will shake hands *right-away*, and if you'll shew me where you *keep*, we'll go along and settle all *them* matters together *right off*."

I presume the above paragraph needs no translation or comment: it may speak for itself; and it will serve to impress upon your minds, by force of its barbarous inelegance, the

* It must here be observed, that all the rules and observations above introduced, relative to the use and abuse of "shall" and "will," equally apply to "should" and "would."