

and accusative is either the subject or the object of another verb, as :

*Dulce est desipere* (subject) *in loco*. It is pleasant to play the fool at the right time.

*Accusatores multos in civitate esse* (subject) *utile est*. The existence of many accusers in a city is useful.

*Fuge quaerere* (object). Avoid inquiring.

*Nolo scribere* (object). I will not write.

The objective infinitive is required after a great many verbs which express an incomplete idea, and must have another verb for its completion. Such verbs are—*e.g.*, *volo*, *nolo*, *malo*, *cupio*, *conor*, *possum*, *audeo*, *vereor*, and many others. The subjective infinitive, on the other hand, is frequently the subject of such impersonal verbs as *juvat*, *apparet*, *constat*, *convenit*, *decet*, *expedit*, *oportet*, *opus est*, *fas est*, *neesse est*, *fugit*, *fallit* or *praeterit me*; also after such expressions as *in animo est*, *pulchrum est*, *certum est*, *aequum est*, *decorum est*, &c., as :

*Neesse est venerari deos*.

It is necessary to worship the gods.

*Omnibus bonis expedit salvam esse rempublicam*.

The safety of the state is an advantage to all good men.

*Te hilari animo esse valde me juvat*. It gives me great pleasure that you are of a cheerful disposition.

NOTE 1.—*Licet* (it is allowed) is rarely followed by the infinitive; it is generally construed with the dative and an infinitive, as *licet Ephoro hoc facere*, an Ephor is allowed to do this; and if there is a noun as a predicate, it agrees with the dative, as *licuit esse otioso Themistocli*, Themistocles was allowed to be idle; though we also find the accusative in such cases, as *civi Romano licet esse Gaditanum*, a Roman citizen may be a native of Gades. *Licet* sometimes becomes almost a conjunction in the sense of "although," and is then followed by the subjunctive.

NOTE 2.—Poets, in imitation of the Greek, sometimes use the infinitive, where in prose we should expect a gerund or a gerundive, as *nequidquam vitabis ceterem sequi Ajaxem* (for *in sequendo* or *ad sequendum*), in vain wilt thou try to avoid Ajax swift in pursuit.

§ 241. When the infinitive itself has a subject, it is general in the accusative, and of course the predicate also, as :

*Romanos adesse nuntiatur*.

It is announced that the Romans are at hand.