

Terms which are preceded by the symbol + are called *positive terms*. Terms which are preceded by the symbol - are called *negative terms*. When no symbol precedes a term the symbol + is understood.

Thus in the expression $a - b + c - d + e - f$

a, c, e are called positive terms,

b, d, f negative

The symbols of operation + and - are usually called *positive and negative signs*.

13. If the number 6 be added to the number 13, and if 6 be taken from the result, the final result will plainly be 13.

So also if a number b be added to a number a , and if b be taken from the result, the final result will be a ; that is,

$$a + b - b = a.$$

Since the operations of addition and subtraction when performed by the same number neutralize each other, we conclude that we may obliterate the same symbol when it presents itself as a positive term and also as a negative term in the same expression.

Thus
and

$$a - a = 0,$$

$$a - a + b = b.$$

14. If we have to add the numbers 54, 17, and 23, we may first add 17 and 23, and add their sum 40 to the number 54, thus obtaining the final result 94. This process may be represented algebraically by enclosing 17 and 23 in a BRACKET (), thus:

$$54 + (17 + 23) = 54 + 40 = 94.$$

15. If we have to subtract from 54 the sum of 17 and 23, the process may be represented algebraically thus:

$$54 - (17 + 23) = 54 - 40 = 14.$$

16. If we have to add to 54 the difference between 23 and 17, the process may be represented algebraically thus:

$$54 + (23 - 17) = 54 + 6 = 60.$$

17. If we have to subtract from 54 the difference between 23 and 17, the process may be represented algebraically thus:

$$54 - (23 - 17) = 54 - 6 = 48.$$