

than this in my left?' 'Yes.' 'Is either of them a large book?' 'No.' 'Does the word *larger*, then, denote more than *large*?' 'No.'

'Of ways for becoming happier (not happy) I could never inquire out more than three.'—*Richter*, translated by *Carlyle*. Does the comparative *happier* here denote a higher state of the quality than the positive *happy*? 'Thou canst the *wisest wiser* make.' Does the superlative *wisest* denote a higher state than the comparative *wiser*?

Another error in one of the definitions quoted above arises from taking the adverbs *less* and *least* as parts of the adjective. Granting the general definition to be correct, the comparative and superlative never denote a *diminution*. The adverbs *less* and *least* or by the adjectives *smaller* and *smallest*. There is no more propriety in making *less* a part of the adjective than there is in making *rather* or any other adverb a part of it."

Turning to syntax of the adjective, we find on the same subject, Note H ;

"The comparative degree presents the objects compared as being in *different* classes or divisions and is followed by *than* ; as, 'The whale is larger than the elephant.' The whale is not an elephant.

The superlative degree presents the objects compared as being in the *same* class or division and is followed by *of* ; as, 'The whale is the largest of animals,' the whale is an animal.

'It would not be correct to say, 'Solomon was wiser than any of the Hebrew kings, because Solomon was one of the Hebrew kings. Nor would it be correct to say, 'Solomon was one of the wisest of the Roman kings,' because Solomon was not one of the Roman kings. It would not be correct to say that Eve was the fairest of her daughters, because that would represent her as one of her own daughters. Nor would it be correct to say that Eve was fairer than any woman, because that would be equivalent to say that she was not a woman.'

But we may say, 'Eve was fairer than any of her daughters,' because Eve and her daughters are thus placed in two different divisions. We may say, 'Eve was the fairest of women,' because Eve is thus placed in the class of women. Or we may say, 'Eve was fairer than any *other* woman,' the word *other* serving to create two divisions. Eve was not one of the *other* women.

'Montesquieu enjoys, perhaps, a wider celebrity than any political writer of modern Europe' *Macaulay*. Montesquieu being one of the political writers of modern Europe, the adjective *other* should have been employed--'than any *other* political writer of modern Europe.'

'The appearance of Mr. Crumple was more

striking than that of any member of his party'—*Dickens*. Was Mr. Crumple a member of the party? If so, *other* should have followed *any*. 'A fondness for show is of all *other* follies the most vain.' Here *other* is incorrectly used.

Sometimes the separation may be indicated by other words 'This work commanded much more attention, as a pronouncing dictionary, than any other of the kind that preceded it' *Worcester*. 'This work' could not be one of 'those that preceded it,' and *other* is incorrectly used.

When two objects of the class or division are compared the comparative is used like the superlative, being followed by *of* ; as, 'He is the taller of the two brothers.'

This being a violation of the principle that the comparative presents the objects compared in *different* classes or divisions, the superlative is often, when two objects of the same class are compared, used in the same way in which it is used when more than two objects are compared, as, 'The *strangest* of the two.'—*Hawthorne*. 'The *most* agreeable of the two.'—*Cowper*. 'The *least* qualified candidate of the two.'—*Dickens*. 'Which of these two causes was *most* active.'—*G. P. Marsh*. 'The *most* lifelike of the two.'—*Mervale*. 'Of the two elements of a compound sentence which is the *most* important?'—*Latham*. 'She asked him whether his queen or she had the *finest* hair ; she even inquired which of them he esteemed the *finest* person.'—*Hume*. 'The *most* fatigued of the two.'—*Hood*. 'The *least* serious of the two.'—*Wilkie Collins*. 'The *least* serious of the two evils.'—*Southey*. 'Whether his cabinet or that of Myneer Slone at London was the *most* valuable.'—*Smollett*. 'Of these two forms we should adopt that which will render the sentence the *most* perspicuous and agreeable.'—*Goold Brown*. 'The services of the lawyer are the *most* expensive and the *least* useful of the two.'—*Scott*. 'We say to ride a horse and to ride on a horse. The first is we believe, the *most* usual construction.'—*Mulligan*. 'The *eldest* of his two sons.'—*Thackeray*. 'The auditory of Mr. Travers was the *most* numerous [compared with that of Hooker].'—*Fuller*. 'Of two usances the *merriest* was put down.'—*Shakespeare*.

"Wherever God erects a house of prayer,
The devil always builds a chapel there ;
And 't will be found, upon examination,
The latter has the largest congregation."—*Defoe*

We would willingly give other examples did space permit, but let anyone having an opportunity read the "Remarks" under Rules VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIV, of the Syntax:

Turning to the Appendix from which we

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