CHAPTER XLIX.

THE SUPINE.

§ 254. The supine is a verbal substantive of the fourth declension, possessing only two cases—the accusative ending in **um**, and the ablative ending in **u**. The use of these two supines is very limited.

The supine in *um* denotes a purpose, and is used only after verbs of motion, such as *ire*, *venire*, and *mittere*, and may have an object in the accusative, as :

Cubitum eo.	I go to lie down or to bed
Legati venerunt pacem petitum.	Ambassadors came to sue for peace.
Legati venerunt questum injurias et ex foedere res repetitum.	Ambassadors came to complain of acts of injustice, and to demand reparation according to the treaty.

NOTE.—As this supine denotes a purpose, its force may also be expressed by the subjunctive and otherwise, as : *legati venerunt qui* or *ut pacem peterent, ad pacem petendam,* or *pacem petituri.* Any of these forms is preferred when the supine has an object in the accusative.

§ 255. The supine in **u**, properly an ablative of manner, is used only after such adjectives as *facilis, difficilis, credibilis, incredibilis, mirabilis, jucundus, honestus, fas, nefas,* and *opus est,* and denotes the object in regard to which these qualities are attributed to a thing. The supines in *u* most commonly used are *dictu, factu, auditu, visu, cognitu, aditu,* and *transitu*—*e.g.* :

Facile, incredibile dictu.	Easy, incredible to say.
Jucundum auditu.	Pleasant to hear.
Nefas est dictu.	It is sinful to say.
Uva peracerba gustatu.	A grape very bitter to taste.
Mirabile dictu.	Wonderful to say.

NOTE.—Instead of this supine with adjectives, we also find *ad* with the gerund, as : *res facilis ad intelligendum,* a thing easy to understand. In late writers it is sometimes used instead of the infinitive, as *pudet me dictu,* I am ashamed to say.

Poets often use the infinitive instead of either of the supines, as : *Proteus pecus egit altos visere* (for *visum*) *montes,* Proteus drove his cattle to visit the high mountains ; *facilis legi* (for *lectu*), easy to be read.