

that, simple as it may seem, it is a point which I had trouble in mastering, and which I have found a stumbling block to students.

With the desire to be practical, I have simply attempted to indicate, in terms as plain as possible, the plan which I have found most successful in getting my pupils to master the Subjunctive Mood.

When the use of the Present Indicative in hypothetical clauses is fully understood, little difficulty will be experienced in determining when to use the Present Subjunctive. A few words on this point may not be entirely thrown away. When there are two things that are liable to be confounded, if we get a clear idea when to use the one, the use of the other will be more easily understood. If we know when to use the Present Subjunctive, it will materially aid us in determining when to use the present Indicative in hypothetical clauses.

On listening to a sermon some time ago on Evolution, I heard the minister make use of the following: "If the Mosaic account of the creation be true, Evolutionists are in error." Now, let us consider why did he make use of the expression "Evolutionists are in error." From his sermon and from what was passing in his mind, he was certain that the Mosaic record was true, because only from his belief in the correctness of the account could he make the assertion that "Evolutionists are in error." The speaker misrepresented what was passing in his mind by using the Subjunctive in this condition, instead of the Indicative.

Take another example, the one given in our authorized text-book. By pursuing a similar line of argument you shall see that the speaker misrepresents what is passing in his mind when he says, "If it rain we shall not come." What would lead the speaker to make use of the expres-

sion? We must think exactly as he did, and he transfer himself forward mentally to the time of starting. Then the only reasoning he could possibly have, would be its raining at that time. Change the expression to, "If it does not rain we shall come," and all becomes perfectly clear. When, then, you will ask, is the Present Subjunctive Mood used? The best answer that I can give is to be found in Mason's *Advanced Grammar*, pp. 438 and 439, and in his remarks on the Subjunctive Mood in the preface to his *Grammar*.

There is a point here to be strictly watched, that is, not to confound this use of the Subjunctive with that found in suppositions respecting the future, treated as "a mere conception of the mind," and to express which the past tense is employed. I may here refer to the infallible guide we used to have for the correct use of the Subjunctive Mood, "Where contingency and futurity are both implied, the Subjunctive; when contingency and futurity are not both implied, the Indicative." This is entirely wrong, and should be vigilantly guarded against as a fruitful source of error, since it contains only a part of the truth.

But the most perplexing problem remains to be considered: viz., whether there is a Future Subjunctive or not. If you examine the works of Abbott, Mason, Angus, Bain, and Fleming, you will find that Bain, Fleming, and Angus have a future tense in their paradigms; Mason has none, and Abbott (if I may be permitted to use the expression), is on the fence.

Were we to decide this matter by numbers, Mason's testimony standing alone would go to the wall; but let us appeal to a higher authority than any of these, viz., Language. What does it say in the matter? Take an example: If Mr. Bishop should advo-