

Mr. Murray's Rules.

Rule III.—The conjunction disjunctive has an effect contrary to that of the conjunction copulative; for, as the verb, noun, or pronoun, is referred to the preceding terms taken separately, it must be in the singular number; as, "Ignorance or negligence *has* caused this mistake;" "John, James, or Joseph, *intends* to accompany me;" "There *is* in many minds neither knowledge nor understanding."—p. 146.

Rule IV.—A noun of multitude, or signifying many, may have a verb or pronoun agreeing with it, either of the singular or plural number; yet not without regard to the import of the word* as conveying unity or plurality of idea; as, "The meeting *was* large;" "The Parliament *is* dissolved;" "The nation *is* powerful;" "My people do not consider; *they* have not known me;" "The multitude eagerly *pursue* pleasure as *their* chief good;" "The council *were* divided in *their* sentiment."—p. 147.

Rule XIX.—Some conjunctions require the indicative, some the subjunctive mood after them. It is a general rule, that when something contingent or doubtful is implied, the subjunctive ought to be used; as, "If I *were* to write, he would not regard it;" "He will not be pardoned *unless he repent*."

Conjunctions that are of a positive and† absolute nature, require the indicative mood: "As virtue *advances*, so vice *recedes*;" "He is healthy, *because* he is temperate."—p. 195.

Corresponding Rules in this.

Two or more singular nouns separated by *or* or *nor*, require a verb and pronoun in the singular; as, James *or* John *is* first.—p. 83.

Rule VIII.—When a noun of multitude conveys *unity* of idea, the verb and pronoun should be singular; as, The class *was* large.

When a noun of multitude conveys *plurality* of idea, the verb and pronoun should be plural; as, My people *do* not consider; *they* have not known me.—p. 87.

Rule X.—Sentences that imply contingency and futurity, require the subjunctive mood; as, *If* he be alone, *give* him the letter.

When contingency and futurity are not implied, the indicative ought to be used; as, *If* he *speaks* as he *thinks* he may safely be trusted.—p. 89.

* The second part of this rule is a flat contradiction of the first. The first says the verb and pronoun may be *either* of the singular or plural number; the second says, *No*; "Not without regard to the import of the word," &c.

† It is easy to explain *contingency* and *futurity*, but what is a *positive* and *absolute* conjunction?

By the Author's Key to this Grammar, a grown-up person, though he had never learned Grammar before, may easily teach himself.