

Symmetry of construction in words, phrases, or clauses is called **balance**, and a sentence with symmetrical construction is called a **balanced sentence**.

EXERCISE.—Study "The Ride from Ghent to Aix" (*Fourth Reader*, p. 351), for Browning's use of symmetry.

III.—This symmetry of construction may be found in successive sentences in the paragraph, when the successive sentences have a common bearing.

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!*

This is called **parallel construction** in the paragraph.

EXERCISE.—Study "Honourable Toil" (*Fourth Reader*, p. 391), for this construction in the paragraph.

IV.—The sense for modulation, for balance, for rhythm, is the chief source of the pleasing music of good prose, called **melody**. The composition, as we say, runs smoothly, or reads well.

EXERCISE I.—Point out instances of symmetry or contrast in each of the following. Try each sentence without contrast or balance, and note the difference:—  
1. The worse the carpenter, the more the chips. 2. The paths of glory lead but to the grave. 3. I naturally hate the face of a tyrant. The farther off he is removed from