

XLIV. Complex Sentences.

Substantive Clauses.

Preliminary Lesson.—Nature form, and structure of substantive clauses (§§ 318–320).

Exercise 109. Analyse the following sentences in which a substantive clause (or noun-sentence, as it is often termed) is the subject, having first drawn a thick line under the whole clause. When 'it' is employed as a temporary, or provisional subject, set it down as such, and place after it the substantive clause as the real subject. Analyse the substantive clauses separately, remembering that the conjunction 'that' does not enter into the structure of the clause which it introduces, but that interrogative words do, being either pronouns or adverbs.

Before analysing the sentences in this and the succeeding Exercises, draw a line under the *entire set of words* which form the substantive clause, remembering that you have not got a complete substantive clause, or noun-sentence, unless it has a subject and a finite verb, with all the adjuncts that may be attached to either of these.

That he did the deed is quite certain. That he said so is undeniable. Who can have told you that, puzzles me. How long I shall stay here is uncertain. What we are to do next is the question. What his capacity signifies nothing. How I found the matter out is no concern of yours. How completely you are mistaken can easily be shown. What signifies what weather we have?

It is not true that he said so. It is very probable that he will not arrive to-day. It is uncertain what the result will be. It does not matter what he thinks. It is uncertain how long I shall stay.

Exercise 110. Analyse the following sentences in which a substantive clause is the object of a verb, or of a phrase equivalent to a transitive verb :—

I knew that he would come. I heard that he had arrived. I think I have the honour of addressing Mr. Smith? Tell me who told you. Tell me how old you are. Tell him I cannot see him to-day. I want to know when this happened. I thought it* strange that he should leave without calling on me. He told me he knew all about the matter. Tell me what you think of all this. He is confident that I shall succeed. We are resolved that that shall not occur again.

Exercise 111. Analyse the following sentences in which a sub-

* 'It' often does duty as a temporary or provisional object. Deal with it as in the case of the subject: that is, first analyse the sentence without the substantive clause, and then substitute that clause for the 'it.'