

Utrum—*an* is used in double or alternative questions, as :

Utrum matrem an patrem pluris Do you esteem your mother or your father more highly?
facis.

NOTE 1.—When a question is asked in a state of excitement, it is sometimes done without any interrogative particle as above, *Thrax est Gallina Syro par?* Sometimes *ecquid* or *numquid* are used as mere interrogative particles like *ne* and *num*, as: *ecquid animadvertis horum silentium?* do you observe the silence of these men? *numquid duas habetis patrias?* have you two native countries?

NOTE 2.—The usual mode of putting a double or alternative question is to introduce the first part by *utrum* (which of the two?) and the second by *an*; but sometimes the first part has *ne* instead of *utrum*, or no particle at all, while the second is almost invariably introduced by *an* and but rarely by *ne*.

NOTE 3.—Sometimes an apparently single question is introduced by *an* (or), but in such a case the first alternative is always understood and easily supplied from the context, as: *quid dicis? an bello fugitivorum Siciliam virtute tua liberatum?* What do you say? or (do you say) that Sicily was delivered by your valour from the war of the slaves?

When the second part of a double question is "or not," this is expressed either by *ne* or *annon*.

Regarding indirect questions see § 221.

CHAPTER XLV.

THE SUBJUNCTIVE AND ITS TENSES.

§ 210. The subjunctive has only four tenses, the present, imperfect, perfect, and pluperfect, but no future nor future perfect. An action merely conceived as possible or wished for in present time naturally belongs to the future; hence the present subjunctive involves the idea of the future, which it resembles even in form.

NOTE.—What used to be given as the future subjunctive—*e.g.*, *amaturus sim*, *deleturus sim*, &c., is only the present subjunctive of the periphrastic conjugation.

§ 211. In their meaning, the tenses of the subjunctive differ in some respects from those of the indicative, especially inasmuch as they only indicate in general whether an action takes place within past or present time, but they do