

(c) [See "in-interrogation" under XV., third line; "sub-head-ings under XVI., second line.]

XIX.

THE APOSTROPHE.

The apostrophe (') is used to denote the elision of a letter or letters (*a*), or of a figure or figures (*b*); to distinguish the possessive case (*c*); and to form certain plurals, (*d*). The apostrophe should not be used with the pronouns *its*, *ours*, and the like (*e*).

(a) 'Tis James of Douglas, by Saint Serle!

(a) The *O'Donoghue* was a broth of a boy.

(a) What o'clock is it?

(a) Hop-o'-my-thumb is an active little hero.

(b) Since that time it has been re-observed on every subsequent revolution, — in '22, '25.

(b) The patriots of '76.

(c) *Spenser's* adulation of her beauty may be extenuated.

(c) The *Seven Years'* war was carried on in America.

(c) The *Fonesses'* dogs are on good terms with Mrs. *Barnard's* cat.

(c) *Ladies'* and *gentlemen's* boots made to order.

(c) The book can be found at Campbell & Son, the *publishers'*.

(c) The *fox's* tail was accordingly cut off.

(c) For *conscience'* sake.

(d) Mark all the *a's* in the exercise.

(d) Surely long *s's* (*f*) have, like the Turks, had their day.

(e) *Its* [not *it's*] length was twenty feet.

(e) Tom Burke of *Ours'*.

It is sometimes a question whether to use the possessive with an apostrophe, or to use the noun as an adjective. One may write, —

John Brown, Agent for Smith's Organs and Robinson's Pianos:

or,

John Brown, Agent for The Smith Organ and The Robinson Piano.

The latter form is preferable.

XX.

PUNCTUATION IN THE SERVICE OF THE EYE.

(1) A comma sometimes serves to distinguish the component parts of a sentence from one another, thus enabling the reader more readily to catch the meaning of the whole. Where, for example, a number of words which together form the object or one of the objects of a verb, precede instead of following the verb, they should be set off by a comma when perspicuity requires it (*a*); but not otherwise (*b*).

(2) A subject-nominative may need to be distinguished from its verb, either because of some peculiarity in the juxtaposition of words at the point where the comma is inserted (*c*), or because of the length and complexity of the subject-nominative (*d*).

(3) When numerals are written in Roman letters instead of Arabic figures, as in references to authorities for a statement, periods are used instead of commas, both as being in better taste and as being more agreeable to the eye. For the same reason, small letters are preferred to capitals when the references are numerous (*e*).

(a) Even the kind of public interests which Englishmen care *for*, *he* held in very little esteem.

(a) To the tender and melancholy recollections of his early days with this loved companion of his *childhood*, *we* may attribute some of the most heartfelt passages in his "Deserted Village."

(b) Even his *country* *he* did not care for.

(b) To devout *women* *she* assigns spiritual functions, dignities, and magistracies.

(c) How much a dunce that has been sent to *roam*,

Excels a dunce that has been kept at home!

(c) One truth is clear, *Whatever is*, *is* right.