

EXERCISES.

1. IMITATION OF DESCRIPTIONS.

EXERCISE XLIX.

Model.

On parting with the old angler I inquired after his place of abode, and happening to be in the neighborhood of the village a few evenings afterwards, I had the curiosity to seek him out. I found him living in a small cottage containing only one room, but a perfect curiosity in its method and arrangement. It was on the skirts of the village on a green bank, a little back from the road, with a small garden in front stocked with kitchen herbs and adorned with a few flowers. The whole front of the cottage was overrun with a honeysuckle. On the top was a ship for a weathercock. The interior was fitted up in a truly nautical style, his ideas of comfort and convenience having been acquired on the berth-deck of a man-of-war. A hammock was slung from the ceiling, which in the daytime was lashed up so as to take but little room. From the centre of the chamber hung a model of a ship of his own workmanship. Two or three chairs, a table, and a large sea chest formed the principal movables. About the wall were stuck up naval ballads, such as *Admiral Hosier's Ghost*, *All in the Downs*, and *Tom Bowline*, intermingled with pictures of sea fights, among which the battle of Camperdown held a distinguished place. The mantelpiece was decorated with sea shells, over which hung a quadrant flanked by two wood cuts of most bitter looking naval commanders. His implements for angling were carefully disposed on nails and hooks about the room. On a shelf was arranged his library, containing a work on angling

much worn, a Bible covered with canvas, an odd volume or two of voyages, a nautical almanac, and a book of songs. — *The Angler*.

Analysis.

Subject: The Angler's Place of Abode.

Point of View: That of a visitor.

Characteristic Trait: "A perfect curiosity." "Fitted up in truly nautical style."

Purpose: The author's purpose is not expressed. The description seems intended to give a better notion of the angler's character.

Outline: "A small cottage containing only one room."

Details: Site, garden, top, hammock, model of a ship, chairs, table, chest, ballads, pictures, mantelpiece, quadrant, implements for angling, library.

Order: Natural order of a visitor; first the exterior, then the interior. In both cases, the details which first meet the eye are described first. On the exterior the description proceeds from the garden to the top of the house; in the interior, from the more prominent objects to the less prominent.

REMARKS. — Notice how often the prepositional phrases are thrown to the front, serving to avoid monotony of cadence, bringing about variety of statement, and keeping the principal parts of the room prominent. In the imitations, students should write out a plan briefly, giving the point of view, the characteristic trait, etc., and afterwards expand this plan into a description.

Subjects for Imitations.

An Old Soldier's Place of Abode.

The Room of a College Athlete.

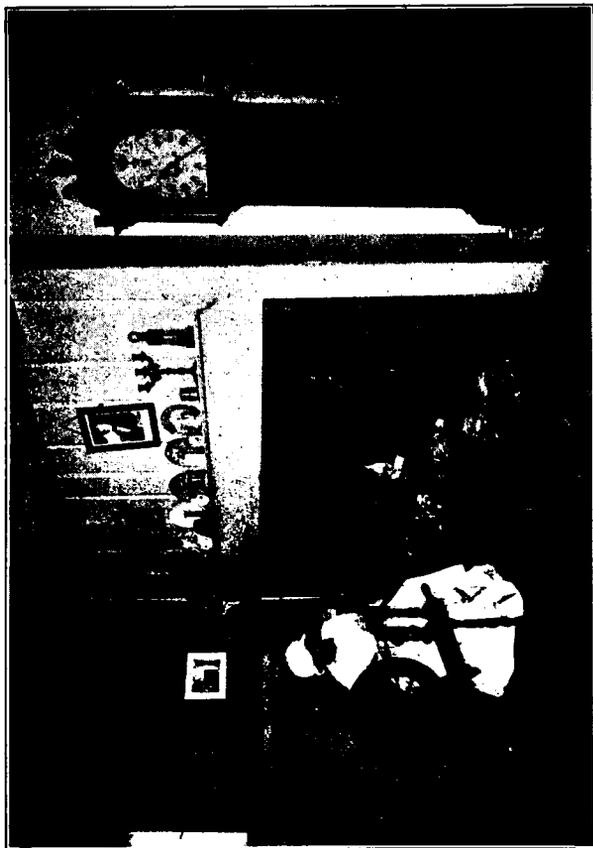
Camping out. Description of the tent.

A Classroom, a Lecture Room, or a Hall

A Cottage by the Sea.



A NEW ENGLAND FIRESIDE.



A NEW ENGLAND FIRESIDE.

The Business Man's Office.
The Abode of a Lover of Horses.

EXERCISE L.

The model description with its analysis will be found on p. 124.

The Topic: **English** scenery at the first awakening of spring.

Developed by giving the circumstances; what could be seen, what could be heard.

Subjects for Imitations.

Scenery at some familiar spot during summer or winter.

A Row on Lake by Moonlight.

A Walk beside a River.

A Stroll through a Forest.

A Climb over a Mountain.

A Country Walk in Autumn.

EXERCISE LI.**Model.**

In the evening we reached a village where I had determined to pass the night. As we drove into the great gateway of the inn, I saw on one side the light of a rousing kitchen fire beaming through a window. I entered, and admired for the hundredth time that picture of convenience, neatness, and broad honest enjoyment—the kitchen of an English inn. It was of spacious dimensions, hung round with copper and tin vessels highly polished, and decorated here and there with a Christmas green. Hams, tongues, and flitches of bacon were suspended from the ceiling; a smokejack made its ceaseless clanging beside the fire-place, and a clock ticked in one corner. A well-scoured deal table extended along one side

of the kitchen, with a cold round of beef and other hearty viands upon it, over which two foaming tankards of ale seemed mounting guard. Travellers of inferior order were preparing to attack this stout repast, while others sat smoking and gossiping over the ale on two high-backed oaken settles beside the fire. Trim housemaids were hurrying backwards and forwards under the direction of a fresh, bustling landlady, but still seizing an occasional moment to exchange a flippant word and have a rallying laugh with the group around the fire. The scene completely realized poor Robin's humble idea of the comforts of mid-winter:—

“ Now trees their leafy hats do bare
 To reverence Winter's silver hair;
 A handsome hostess, merry host,
 A pot of ale now and a toast,
 Tobacco and a good coal fire,
 Are things the season doth require.”

— *The Stage Coach.*

Topic is stated in the third sentence.

Developed by circumstances.

REMARKS.— Two sentences of introduction precede the topic. The author's choice of circumstances is controlled by the three qualities mentioned in the topic sentence. The class should be made to point out the details which illustrate each quality. Before the imitation, the students might be required to state what qualities predominate in the scene they are to describe, and then to mention the details in their proper order. Here the place is depicted first, and then follows a description of the persons, closed by an appropriate reflection arising from the scene. With this description compare *The Inn Kitchen* and the description of *The Mason's Arms* in the sketch, *The Boar's Head Tavern*.

Subjects.

Describe in the same way:—

A college gymnasium.

A classroom.

A chemical laboratory.
The room of a modern student.
The lobby of a large hotel.
A library.

EXERCISE LII.**Model.**

Such is the scanty story of the brave but unfortunate King Philip; persecuted while living, slandered and dishonored when dead. If, however, we consider even the prejudiced anecdotes furnished us by his enemies, we may perceive in them traces of amiable and lofty character sufficient to awaken sympathy for his fate and respect for his memory. We find that amidst all the harassing cares and ferocious passions of constant warfare he was alive to the softer feelings of connubial love and paternal tenderness, and to the generous sentiment of friendship. The captivity of "his beloved wife and only son" are mentioned with exultation as causing him poignant misery; the death of any near friend is triumphantly recorded as a new blow on his sensibilities; but the treachery and desertion of many of his followers in whose affections he had confided is said to have desolated his heart, and to have bereaved him of all further comfort. He was a patriot attached to his native soil, — a prince true to his subjects and indignant of their wrongs, — a soldier daring in battle, firm in adversity, patient of fatigue, of hunger, of every variety of bodily suffering, and ready to perish in the cause he had espoused. Proud of heart and with an untamable love of natural liberty, he preferred to enjoy it among the beasts of the forests or in the dismal and famished recesses of swamps and morasses, rather than bow his haughty spirit to submission and live dependent and despised in the ease and luxury of the settlements. With heroic qualities and bold achievements that would have graced a civilized warrior and have rendered him the theme of the poet and the historian, he lived a wanderer and a

fugitive in his native land, and went down like a lonely bark foundering amid darkness and tempest — without a pitying eye to weep his fall or a friendly hand to record his struggle. — *Philip of Pokanoket.*

REMARKS. — This paragraph is placed here as an example of description of character. It is the last paragraph of the sketch, and gives the author's estimate of Philip. The topic is developed by enumerating the different situations in life and the circumstances in which traces of Philip's amiable and lofty character may be perceived, and by adducing the causes that awaken our sympathy and respect for him.

Analysis.

Introduction: Preceding sketch briefly summarized.

Topic is stated in the second sentence.

Development: —

I. His amiable character shown in

1. His conjugal love.
2. His paternal tenderness.
3. His generous, sentimental friendship.

Instances where these feelings were displayed.

II. His lofty character shown as a

1. Patriot.
2. Prince.
3. Soldier.
4. Proud and independent spirit.

Proved in each case by his actions.

III. Sufficient to awaken

1. Respect for qualities and achievements
 - a. That would have graced a civilized warrior.
 - b. That would have made him the theme of poet and historian.
2. Sympathy for one
 - a. Who was a wanderer and a fugitive.
 - b. Who died forsaken.

Subjects for Imitations.

Write a concluding paragraph to a sketch of

Columbus — courage and enthusiasm.

Cæsar — genius and ambition.

Chatterton — pride and poetical talent.

Washington.

Benedict Arnold.

Rip Van Winkle.

Ichabod Crane.