

## EXERCISES.

### 1. IMITATION OF PARAGRAPHS.

#### EXERCISE XXVI.

##### Model.

It is a pleasing sight of a Sunday morning, when the bell is sending its sober melody across the quiet fields, to behold the peasantry in their best finery, with ruddy faces and modest cheerfulness, thronging tranquilly along the green lanes to church; but it is still more pleasing to see them in the evenings, gathering about their cottage doors and appearing to exult in the humble comforts and embellishments which their own hands have spread around them. — *Rural Life in England.*

Topic: The peasants are a pleasant sight of a Sunday morning, but a more pleasant one in the evening.

Developed by circumstances.

##### Imitation.

Topic: Riding a bicycle is a pleasure in the morning, but a greater pleasure in the evening.

Developed by circumstances: —

It is a great pleasure on a clear September morning, when the air has been freshened and the dust laid by a gentle rain, to mount one's bicycle and speed over level roads and shady lanes, leaving the dust and heat of the city far behind; but it is a still greater pleasure on the way home in the evening to coast down some long, smooth hill, resting after the toil of the day and letting the cool night breeze play on the heated body and glowing brow.

**Subjects.**

Sunrise and sunset in some favorite spot.

Yachting in a gentle breeze and in a stiff wind.

It is hard to study in winter, but harder in summer.

The study of Latin and Greek. (*Pleasant or disagreeable.*)

Summer at the seaside and summer in the mountains.

It is noble to be just, but it is more noble to be merciful.

**EXERCISE XXVII.****Model.**

The stranger who would form a correct opinion of the English character, must not confine his observations to the metropolis. He must go forth into the country; he must sojourn in villages and hamlets; he must visit castles, villas, farmhouses, cottages; he must wander through parks and gardens, along hedges and green lanes; he must loiter about country churches; attend wakes and fairs and other rural festivals; and cope with the people in all their conditions and all their habits and humors. — *Rural Life in England.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence and repeated by obverse iteration in the beginning of the second sentence.

Developed by enumerating the parts of the country.

REMARKS. — The student should notice and strive to imitate the peculiar appropriateness of the verbs used for each detail, "sojourn," "visit," "wander," etc. The rhythm of the paragraph should be preserved as far as possible. For this purpose it would be well for the student to read aloud the passage to be imitated.

**Imitation.**

Topic: The student who would write a good imitation of Irving, must not merely know the rules of composition.

Developed by enumerating the parts of "model":—

The student who would write a good imitation of Irving, must not merely know the rules of composition. He must study his model; he must read it all slowly and carefully; he must weigh words, phrases, clauses, sentences; he must take note of emphasis and rhythm, of turns of expression and beauties of language; he must fathom the meaning of the author; follow out the development of the thought; and make himself master of the writer's style in all its perfection and in all its minute details.

#### Subjects.

He who would be a poet, must not confine his studies to the rules of his art. He must contemplate the beauties of nature.

He who is desirous of becoming a soldier, must not be content with a knowledge of tactics. He must go forth to war.

He who would make himself a perfect orator, must not know merely the precepts of rhetoric. He must apply them in practice.

The student who would esteem Irving rightly, must not rest satisfied with what others say of him. He should examine for himself the *Sketch Book*. (*Enumerate some of the sketches.*)

He who would truly feel for the poor, must not merely read about them. He must visit them.

"If thou wouldst view fair Melrose aright,  
Go visit it by the pale moonlight."

(*Read the passage at the beginning of Canto II, Lay of the Last Minstrel, and enumerate the parts of the abbey, giving, as Scott does, the effects of the moonlight on them.*)

## EXERCISE XXVIII.

**Model.**

English travellers are the best and the worst in the world. Where no motives of pride or interest intervene, none can equal them for profound and philosophical views of society, or faithful and graphical description of external objects; but when either the interest or reputation of their own country comes in collision with that of another, they go to the opposite extreme, and forget their usual probity and candor, in the indulgence of splenetic remark and an illiberal spirit of ridicule. — *English Writers on America.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by giving causes.

REMARKS. — The words and phrases of the imitation paragraph are taken from the sketch, *Rip Van Winkle*. To work over in this way the material furnished by the author, will sometimes prove helpful in acquiring a vocabulary.

**Imitation.**

Rip Van Winkle was the most industrious and the most indolent man in his native town. Where there was no question of his own business or of profitable labor, none could equal him for assiduity and perseverance; but when called upon either to do family duty or to keep his farm in order, he would go to the opposite extreme, and forget the activity and industry expended upon sport or charity, in the indulgence of an insuperable aversion to work.

**Subjects.**

Study can be distasteful or agreeable.

Newspapers are beneficial and injurious.

The coming of winter brings joy and sorrow.

Ichabod Crane was an odd mixture of shrewdness and credulity.

## EXERCISE XXIX.

**Model.**

What then is to insure this pile which now towers above me from sharing the fate of mightier mausoleums? The time must come when its gilded vaults which now spring so loftily shall lie in rubbish beneath the feet; when instead of the sound of melody and praise, the wind shall whistle through the broken arches, and the owl hoot from the shattered tower; when the garish sunbeam shall break into these gloomy mansions of death, and the ivy twine round the fallen column, and the fox-glove hang its blossoms about the nameless urn, as if in mockery of the dead. Thus man passes away; his name perishes from record and recollection; his history is as a tale that is told, and his very monument becomes a ruin. — *Westminster Abbey.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by giving the effects of time on each part of the abbey.

REMARK.— Notice the increasing length of the clauses in the second sentence.

**Imitation.**

Topic developed by giving the effects of winter upon a scene.

What can insure this fair scene which spreads before me, from sharing the yearly fate of more beautiful prospects? The time must come when its lofty trees, which now flourish so proudly, shall be stripped of all their foliage; when, instead of the melodious songs of birds, the winter wind shall whistle through the bare branches and draw a moan from the straining limbs; when the frost shall blight with its withering touch this garden of beauty, the hard, glittering ice shall clasp everything in its cold embrace, and the snow shall envelop with a white, monotonous pall this vision of many colors. Thus sum-

mer passes away; its beauties perish before our eyes; its charm is as a picture that has faded from sight, and the scene of its former glory is marked with bleakness and desolation.

**Subjects.**

Who dreamed of the fate that was to overtake the *Maine*?

Little did the Indian imagine the future America.

Who, seeing Pompeii in all its glory, thought of the doom overhanging it?

Write, according to the same model, a description of a burnt building or a besieged city.

Relate the fate of Greece or Rome or Babylon.

Describe the effects which the spring will have on some winter scene.

Describe a deserted village. (*Cf. Goldsmith's Deserted Village.*)

**EXERCISE XXX.**

**Model.**

That all this might not be too onerous on the purses of his rustic patrons, who are apt to consider the costs of schooling a grievous burden and schoolmasters as mere drones, he had various ways of rendering himself both useful and agreeable. He assisted the farmers occasionally in the lighter labors of their farms, helped to make hay, mended the fences, took the horses to water, drove the cows from pasture, and cut wood for the winter fire. He laid aside, too, all the dominant dignity and absolute sway with which he lorded it in his little empire, the school, and became wonderfully gentle and ingratiating. He found favor in the eyes of the mothers by petting the children, particularly the youngest; and like the lion bold, which whilom so magnanimously the lamb did hold, he would sit with a child on one knee and rock a cradle with his foot for whole hours together.

— *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.*

Topic is stated in the principal clause of the opening sentence; the subordinate clause serves as a transition from the preceding paragraph.

Developed by enumeration of ways.

**REMARKS.** — The opening clause serves as a transition from the preceding paragraph. The topic with its two divisions is then stated in the principal clause. The second sentence shows the ways in which he rendered himself useful. The adverb, "too," in the third sentence serves to indicate the taking up of the second part of the topic. The idea expressed by the word "agreeable" is repeated in a paraphrase. Finally, the last sentence enumerates the ways in which he showed himself agreeable.

The first sentence, as often in paragraphs, serves as a connection with what precedes. Hence we have an inversion. This phase of the sentence may be disregarded in the imitations. The same remark holds true in the case of many of the exercises that follow. In this imitation care should be exercised in the choice of details and in their arrangement.

#### **Imitation.**

Topic: Reading is useful and agreeable.

Developed by enumerating the useful and agreeable effects of reading: —

Those who have devoted their lives to the companionship of books, and even others to whom a book affords merely a passing pleasure, find that reading in many ways proves both useful and agreeable. It makes a man acquainted with all the world about him; broadens his mind; sharpens his intellect; renders him eager for knowledge; gives him a readiness in conversation, and develops his powers of thought. It whiles away, too, many hours which would perhaps be spent under that severe teacher the world, and becomes admirably soothing and interesting. It is a gentle remedy for the troubled and the ill, especially for the confirmed invalid; and like a sweet dream that sometimes visits a sleeper, it will charm the peaceful reader and delight him with fantastic pictures for whole hours together.

**Subjects.**

A row on the river is both delightful and invigorating.  
(*So also a sail on the sea.*)

Football is a severe but healthful sport.

A storm at sea is sublime and terrible.

The study of history is pleasing and profitable. (*In like manner of any other study.*)

The telegraph is a marvellous and useful invention.  
(*So also the printing-press, etc.*)

**EXERCISE XXXI.****Model.**

One of our party had equalled the Don in the fulness of his equipments, being attired cap-a-pie for the enterprise. He wore a broad-skirted fustian coat perplexed with half a hundred pockets, a pair of stout shoes and leathern gaiters, a basket slung on one side for fish, a patent rod, a landing net, and a score of other inconveniences only to be found in the true angler's armory. Thus harnessed for the field, he was as great a matter of stare and wonderment among the country folk, who had never seen a regular angler, as was the steel-clad hero of La Mancha among the goatherds of the Sierra Morena. — *The Angler.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence; description of an angler fully equipped for work.

Developed by circumstances and comparison.

REMARKS. — The comparison is asserted in general terms in the first sentence. The equipment is mentioned in detail in the second sentence, and confirmed by these details, the comparison is restated in more definite terms. Notice how the comparison is sustained by the use of the words "armory," "harnessed," etc.

**Imitation.**

Topic: Description of a forest in autumn.

"The embattled forests, erewhile armed in gold,  
Their banners bright with every martial hue."—*T. B. Read.*

Developed by circumstances and comparison:—

The forest in all the glory of its autumn colors resembled an array of mediæval knights, flaunting a hundred different banners. It displayed to view the brilliant maples, waving mingled hues of green, gold, and red; the yellow chestnuts and poplars, the beeches in white bark and bleaching leaves; the dark green pines and a score of other trees with their foliage fading into brown or falling away from the black limbs beneath. Thus lifting on high its bright ensigns, it presented as fair a spectacle to those who had the good fortune to behold it, as did a gathering of steel-clad warriors to the people of the Middle Ages.

**Subjects.**

A Football Player. (*Circumstances, and comparison with a gladiator.*)

Describe a person in gaudy costume. (*Circumstances, and comparison with a butterfly.*)

Describe the wild flower, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, showing the aptness of the comparison implied in the name.

Describe a hunter, comparing him to a modern soldier.

**EXERCISE XXXII.****Model.**

I have dwelt upon this beautiful rural custom, because, as it is one of the last, so it is one of the holiest offices of love. The grave is the ordeal of true affection. It is there that the divine passion of the soul manifests its superiority to the instinctive impulse of mere animal attachment. The latter must be continually refreshed and kept alive by the presence of its object;

but the love that is seated in the soul can live on long remembrance. The mere inclinations of sense languish and decline with the charms that excited them, and turn with shuddering disgust from the dismal precincts of the tomb; but it is thence that truly spiritual affection rises, purified from every sensual desire, and returns like a holy flame to illumine and sanctify the heart of the survivor. — *Rural Funerals.*

Topic is stated in the second sentence.

Developed by contrasting the effects of the grave upon affections of the soul and of sense.

#### Imitation.

Topic: Adversity is the ordeal of true friendship.

Developed by contrasting the effects of adversity upon a selfish and an unselfish attachment: —

There is an old proverb which says that a friend in need is a friend indeed. Adversity is the ordeal of true friendship. It is in that hour that the noble passion of generous devotion manifests its superiority to the lower feelings of selfishness. The latter must be refreshed and kept alive by the hope of personal gain, but the esteem that is centred in another's worth can live without a thought of profit to self. The inclinations of mercenary attachments languish and decline with a decrease of the advantages that excited them, and cease to exist in the time of sorrow and disaster; but it is then that truly disinterested affection shines forth, purified from every selfish desire, and flames up like a beacon-light to illumine and cheer the heart of the afflicted friend.

#### Subjects.

Danger is the ordeal of true bravery. (*Contrast bravery with boasting.*)

Time is the test of good literature. (*Contrast good literature with the writing that enjoys a passing popularity.*)

War is the ordeal of true patriotism.  
Temptation is the ordeal of true virtue.

## EXERCISE XXXIII.

**Model.**

The last beams of day were now faintly streaming through the painted windows in the high vaults above me; the lower parts of the abbey were already wrapped in the obscurity of twilight. The chapels and aisles grew darker and darker. The effigies of the kings faded into shadows, the marble figures of the monuments assumed strange shapes in the uncertain light, the evening breeze crept through the aisles like the cold breath of the grave, and even the distant footfall of a verger traversing the Poet's Corner had something strange and dreary in its sound. I slowly retraced my morning's walk, and as I passed out at the portal of the cloisters, the door closing with a jarring noise behind me filled the whole building with echoes. — *Westminster Abbey.*

Topic is not stated expressly. It can be put thus: Nightfall in Westminster Abbey.

Developed by giving the effects on the different parts of the abbey.

REMARKS. — All the effects are chosen for the purpose of bringing out the gloom of the scene. In the imitations, determine upon the feeling you wish to excite, and choose your details accordingly.

**Imitation.**

Topic: Sunrise in a forest.

Developed as in the model: —

The first beams of day were now faintly streaming through the leaves in the high trees above me; the lower part of the forest was yet wrapped in the darkness of night. The recesses and paths grew brighter and brighter. The outlines of the trees came more distinctly into view, the low underbrush lost

its strange shapes in the clearer light, the morning breeze stole through the branches like the warm breath of life, and the faint chirping of the first awakened birds, striking on my ear from this side and that, had something bright and cheerful in its sound. I slowly departed from my resting-place of the night before, and as I passed out from the shadows of the trees, the birds swelling their chorus in the full morning light filled the whole forest with sweet music.

#### Subjects.

Describe :—

The effects of sunrise in the abbey.

The approach of a thunderstorm.

The coming of winter.

Sheridan's arrival at the battle of Cedar Creek. (*Describe its effects upon his routed army.*)

The effects of the eclipse foretold by Columbus to the Indians.

Nightfall on board ship; in a forest.

#### EXERCISE XXX

##### Model.

The pitchy gloom without makes the heart dilate on entering the room filled with the glow and warmth of the evening fire. The ruddy blaze diffuses an artificial summer and sunshine through the room, and lights up each countenance in a kindlier welcome. Where does the honest face of hospitality expand into a broader and more cordial smile—where is the shy glance of love more sweetly eloquent—than by the winter fireside? And as the hollow blast of the wintry wind rushes through the hall, claps the distant door, whistles about the casement, and rumbles down the chimney, what can be more grateful than that feeling of sober and sheltered security with which we look round upon the comfortable chamber and the scene of domestic hilarity?—*Christmas.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by paraphrasing the thought that the fire-side excites feelings of friendship. In the last sentence the effects of the wind are stated.

REMARKS.—The thought becomes more definite as the paraphrasing proceeds. First the feeling is expressed in general terms: "the heart dilates." Then follow the look of kindly welcome, the smile of hospitality, the glance of love, and "the scene of domestic hilarity."

#### Imitation.

Topic: A thunderstorm on the sea fills one with terror.  
Developed as in the model:—

The sudden coming of a storm on the sea makes the hearts of the sailors shrink as they guide their boat over the waters. The growing darkness brings on an early night, and fills every one with apprehension. Where does the restless eye betoken greater fear—where do the most courageous experience a keener dread—than on the angry waves of a stormy sea? And as the distant thunder grows louder, rolls ever nearer, sounds along the black surges, and crashes in a flash of lightning over the tossing craft, what can be more terrible than the sense of utter helplessness that comes to them when they are swept on by the powerful force of wind and wave?

#### Subjects.

College life fosters friendship.

The reading of poetry elevates the mind.

The debating society develops good speakers.

A visit to a church in the night inspires awe.

A walk in the forests is a pleasant recreation.

The sea excites feelings of wonder.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity."

— *As You Like It.*

## EXERCISE XXXV.

**Model.**

For my part, I love to give myself up to the illusions of poetry. A hero of fiction that never existed is just as valuable to me as a hero of history that existed a thousand years since; and if I may be excused such an insensibility to the common ties of human nature, I would not give up fat Jack for half the great men of ancient chronicle. What have the heroes of yore done for me, or men like me? They have conquered countries of which I do not enjoy an acre; or they have gained laurels of which I do not inherit a leaf; or they have furnished examples of hair-brained prowess which I have neither the opportunity nor the inclination to follow. But old Jack Falstaff! — kind Jack Falstaff! — sweet Jack Falstaff! — has enlarged the boundaries of human enjoyment; he has added vast regions of wit and good humor in which the poorest man may revel, and has bequeathed a never failing inheritance of jolly laughter to make mankind merrier and better to the latest posterity. — *The Bear's Head Tavern.*

Topic is stated in the second sentence, first in general terms, then in particular.

Developed by contrasting the effects produced by heroes and by Falstaff.

REMARKS. — In the imitations, be definite, choosing some particular book, etc. The first sentence of the paragraph serves as a transition from the preceding paragraph, and an introduction to what follows. Notice how carefully the contrast is worked out.

**Imitation.**

Topic developed by contrasting the effects produced by philosophers and by Irving.

For my part, I love to give my time to the perusal of Irving. A simple writer that helps me to pass away an hour pleasantly is more valuable to me than a profound writer that has bur-

dened the world with obscure thoughts; and if I may be excused such an insensibility to my own mental improvement, I would not give Washington Irving for half the philosophers on the roll of literature. What have these philosophers done for me or men like me? They have discovered truths which my feeble powers cannot comprehend; or they have devised puzzling systems of thought which are beyond the reach of my wit to unravel; or they have ushered into the world ponderous volumes of wisdom which I have neither the ability nor inclination to read. But good old Irving!—genial Irving!—humorous Irving!—has put in an interesting way the old familiar truths; he has shed the light of his luminous style on the simple emotions which touch or move the heart of mankind, and has bequeathed to us an inheritance of light, attractive sketches, sparkling with wit and humor, to while away many a heavy hour of life.

#### Subjects.

- Contrast the soldier and the statesman.
- Compare a favorite book with the newspaper.
- One's native land is preferred to all others.
- Compare a drink of spring water with other drinks.
- Contrast your favorite flower with other flowers.
- Contrast the town and the country; the poet and the orator.

#### EXERCISE XXXVI.

##### Model.

Perhaps it might be owing to the pleasing serenity that reigned in my own mind that I fancied I saw cheerfulness in every countenance throughout the journey. A stage-coach, however, carries animation always with it, and puts the world in motion as it whirls along. The

*Introduction.*

*Topic.*

horn sounded at the entrance of the village produces a general bustle. Some hasten forth to meet friends; some with bundles and handboxes to secure places, and in the hurry of the moment can hardly take leave of the group that accompanies them. In the meantime the coachman has a world of small commissions to execute. Sometimes he delivers a hare or pheasant; sometimes jerks a small parcel or newspaper to the door of a public-house; and sometimes, with knowing leer and words of sly import, hands to some half-blushing, half-laughing housemaid an odd-shaped billet-doux from some rustic admirer. As the coach rattles through the village every one runs to the window, and you have glances on every side of fresh country faces and blooming, giggling girls. At the corners are assembled juntos of village idlers and wise men, who take their stations there for the important purpose of seeing company pass; but the sagest knot is generally at the blacksmith's, to whom the passing of the coach is an event fruitful of much speculation. The smith, with the horse's heel in his lap, pauses as the vehicle whirls by; the cyclops round the anvil suspend their ringing hammers and suffer the iron to grow cool; and the sooty spectre in brown paper cap laboring at the bellows leans on the handle for a moment, and permits the asthmatic engine to heave a long-drawn sigh, while he glares through the murky smoke and sulphurous gleams of the smithy. — *The Stage Coach.*

*At the entrance to the village:*

1. *Passengers and friends.*
2. *Commissions of the coachman.*

*Through the village:*

1. *At the windows*
2. *At the corners.*
3. *At the black smith's.*

Topic is stated in the second sentence.

Developed by enumerating the effects of the arrival of the stage-coach.

REMARKS. — The repetition of "that" in the first sentence of the model is not good. Notice that the detail demanding greater development because of its importance is kept for the last place. This fact should be remembered in the imitations.

#### Imitation.

Topic: The return of a hero from the war.

Developed as in the model: —

It was due to mingled feelings of love, admiration, and gratitude glowing in the heart, that joy shone in every countenance and sparkled in every eye along the entire route. The triumphal progress of the hero aroused the greatest enthusiasm and excited the noblest sentiments in the concourse of people. The shouts at the entrance of the city, borne along in swelling waves of sound, stirred the pulses of those who still awaited his coming. Some pressed forward to catch a nearer glimpse of the victor; some threw their caps into the air, and in the excess of their delight uttered cheer after cheer of enthusiastic greeting. Amid these signs of universal rejoicing the hero held his triumphal course. At times, with hat in hand, he bowed to the cheering throng; at times a smile of welcome beamed upon his countenance as he gazed on the happy faces turned towards him; and at times his heart swelled with honest pride and rapture at the thought of the place he held in the affections of his countrymen, and of the genuine gratitude and joy with which they hailed their country's protector. As the hero slowly made his way along the line of march, the welcome of the people grew ever louder and more demonstrative, and you might continually see new throngs of citizens rushing from every quarter to join the joyful celebration. Along the route large stands had been erected, and these were filled to overflowing with the wealth and beauty of the

city, which had taken up positions there to welcome the hero on his return; but the densest throng was gathered and the warmest enthusiasm was displayed in front of the little balcony where the hero's wife and child awaited the approach of their loved one. The multitude received the hero with a cry of joy as he drew near his home; the happy pair upon the balcony clapped their hands in greeting to the victor, and at sight of this pleasing spectacle the enthusiasm of the multitude rose to its highest pitch, and round after round of tumultuous applause burst from the great throng.

**Subjects.**

The Mail Carrier on his Rounds.

Arrival of an Ocean Liner.

A Naval Parade.

The Hunter's Return.

Troops arriving at a Strike **Scene**.

Scene before a Battle.

**EXERCISE XXXVII.**

**Model.**

The pedagogue's mouth watered as he looked upon this sumptuous promise of luxurious winter fare. In his devouring mind's eye he pictured to himself every roasting pig running about with a pudding in his belly and an apple in his mouth; the pigeons were snugly put to bed in a comfortable pie and tucked in with a coverlet of crust; the geese were swimming in their own gravy; and the ducks pairing cosily in dishes with a decent competency of onion sauce. In the porkers he saw carved out the future sleek side of bacon and juicy relishing ham; not a turkey but he beheld daintily trussed up with its gizzard under its wing, and peradventure a necklace of savory sausages; and even bright chanticleer himself lay sprawling on his back in a side-dish, with uplifted claws, as if craving that

quarter which his chivalrous spirit disdained to ask while living. — *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by enumeration of various kinds of fare and appropriate circumstances.

#### Subjects.

Describe in the same way: —

A timid person in a graveyard by night. (*Enumerate sights and sounds, and what they are fancied to be.*)

A dream of study to a lazy student. (*Enumerate the difficulties connected with each book.*)

Nature as it presents itself to the poet.

The ruins of the Roman Forum and the scenes they recall.

An old soldier visiting the battlefield where he fought.

A small boy's dream of Christmas.

#### EXERCISE XXXVIII.

##### Model.

I have seldom known a sermon attended apparently with more immediate effects; for on leaving the church the congregation seemed one and all possessed with the gayety of spirit so earnestly enjoined by their pastor. The elder folks gathered in knots in the churchyard, greeting and shaking hands; and the children ran about crying "Ule!" "Ule!" and repeating some uncouth rhymes, which the parson, who had joined us, informed me had been handed down from days of yore. The villagers doffed their hats to the squire as he passed, giving him the good wishes of the season with every appearance of heartfelt sincerity, and were invited by him to the hall to take something to keep out the cold of the weather; and I heard blessings uttered by several of the poor, which convinced me

that in the midst of his enjoyments the worthy old cavalier had not forgotten the true Christmas virtue of charity. — *Christmas Day.*

Topic is stated in the first clause of the paragraph.

Developed by enumerating the effects on different persons.

REMARKS. — The effect on all in general is stated first. Then follows the effect on individuals. The rule of proportion is observed in giving more space to the most prominent figure, the squire. In the imitation, care should be exercised in choosing that detail which is to be dwelt upon.

#### Subjects.

Describe : —

The effects of an unexpected holiday on schoolboys.

A game interrupted by rain. (*Effects on players and spectators.*)

A thunderstorm on the crowded streets of a city.

A fire-alarm and its effects.

The assassination of Lincoln, or the effects of any other great disaster.

A great speech at an enthusiastic political meeting.

#### EXERCISE XXXIX.

##### Model.

I could not but admire the style with which the splendid pageant was brought up to the gate of the churchyard. There was a vast effect produced at the turning of an angle of the wall, — a great smacking of the whip, straining and scrambling of the horses, glistening of harness, and flashing of wheels through gravel. This was the moment of triumph and vain-glory to the coachman. The horses were urged and checked until they were fretted into a foam. They threw out their feet into a prancing trot, dashing about pebbles at every step. The crowd of villagers sauntering quietly to church, opened precipi-

tately to the right and left, gaping in vacant admiration. On reaching the gate, the horses were pulled up with a suddenness that produced an immediate stop, and almost threw them on their haunches. — *The Country Church.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by giving the circumstances.

REMARKS. — Close attention will show that the language adapts itself to the thought, becoming somewhat pompous and depicting, as well as words can, all the details.

#### Subjects.

Describe according to the model:—

The express rushing into the station.

The fire-engine arriving at a fire.

The football team coming on the field.

The steamer arriving at the pier.

The homecoming of the soldiers after the war.

The reception given a great orator or a popular hero as he rises to speak.

#### EXERCISE XL.

##### Model.

The fixed and unchanging features of the country also perpetuate the memory of the friend with whom we once enjoyed them; who was the companion of our most retired walks, and gave animation to every lonely scene. His idea is associated with every charm of nature; we hear his voice in the echo which he once delighted to awaken; his spirit haunts the grove which he once frequented; we think of him in the wild upland solitude or amidst the pensive beauty of the valley. In the freshness of joyous morning, we remember his beaming smiles and bounding gayety; and when sober evening returns with its gathering shadows and subduing quiet, we call to mind many a twilight hour of gentle talk and sweet-souled melancholy.

“Each lonely place shall him restore,  
 For him the tear be duly shed;  
 Beloved till life can charm no more,  
 And mourned till pity’s self be dead.”

— *Rural Funerals.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by enumeration of the “features of the country” and their memories.

REMARKS.—“Also” serves as a particle of transition from the preceding paragraph. Notice the variety in the sentence-structure and in the vocabulary. The qualifying adjectives are also worthy of note.

#### Subjects.

Memories of college friends cluster around the college.

The traces of the Indian in America are few.

The coming of spring is manifest in everything.

The memory of Washington is perpetuated in many ways.

The scenes of some place perpetuate the pleasures of a vacation there.

The scenes of some city perpetuate the memory of a friend.

#### EXERCISE XLI.

##### Model.

But if there was a pleasure in all this while snugly cuddling in the chimney corner of a chamber that was all of a ruddy glow from the crackling wood fire, and where of course no spectre dared to show his face, it was dearly purchased by the terrors of his subsequent walk homewards. What fearful shapes and shadows beset his path amidst the dim and ghastly glare of a snowy night! With what wistful look did he eye every trembling ray of light streaming across the waste fields from some distant window! How often was he appalled by

some shrub covered with snow, which, like a sheeted spectre, beset his very path! How often did he shrink with curdling awe at the sound of his own steps on the frosty crust beneath his feet, and dread to look over his shoulder lest he should behold some uncouth being tramping close behind him! And how often was he thrown into complete dismay by some rushing blast howling among the trees, in the idea that it was the Galloping Hessian on one of his nightly scourings! — *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.*

Topic is stated in the principal clause of the first sentence.

Developed by giving the causes of his terrors.

Analysis: 1. Transition from preceding paragraph.

2. Topic: Terrors of the walk homewards.

a. Sights: —

Shapes and shadows.

Ray of light.

Shrub covered with snow.

b. Sounds: —

His own footsteps on the snow.

The rushing blast.

REMARK. — In imitating, first make out an analysis of your subject.

#### Subjects.

Develop according to the model: —

The terrors of an examination to a negligent student.

The fears of a timid passenger on a railroad car.

The wonder of a countryman on his first visit to a large city.

The joy excited by a visit to one's early home after many years of absence.

The delight of a child on beholding a Christmas tree.

The apprehensions of a sentry on guard by night.

## EXERCISE XLII.

**Model.**

On the contrary, said I, it is owing to that very man that the literature of his period has experienced a duration beyond the ordinary term of English literature. There rise authors now and then who seem proof against the mutability of language, because they have rooted themselves in the unchanging principles of human nature. They are like gigantic trees that we sometimes see on the banks of a stream, which, by their vast and deep roots, penetrating through the mere surface and laying hold on the very foundations of the earth, preserve the soil around them from being swept away by the ever flowing current, and hold up many a neighboring plant and perhaps worthless weed to perpetuity. Such is the case with Shakespeare, whom we behold defying the encroachments of time, retaining in modern use the language and literature of his day, and giving duration to many an indifferent author, merely from having flourished in his vicinity. But even he, I grieve to say, is gradually assuming the tint of age, and his whole form is overrun by a profusion of commentators, who, like clambering vines and creepers, almost bury the noble plant that upholds them. — *The Mutability of Literature.*

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by comparison.

**Subjects.**

A great writer inspires his readers with new and interesting ideas. (*Comparison with a discoverer. See Keats's Sonnet on Reading Homer.*)

The invasion of Europe by the barbarians. (*Comparison with a plague.*)

The acquisition of knowledge is difficult. (*Comparison with mountain-climbers.*)

The life of man is full of vicissitudes. (*Compare to a brook or a river.*)

“Say not, the struggle naught availeth,  
The labor and the wounds are vain,  
The enemy faints not nor faileth,  
And as things have been they remain.”

— *Clough.*

(*See the rest of the poem for comparisons.*)

### EXERCISE XLIII.

#### Model.

There is something in the very season of the year that gives a charm to the festivity of Christmas. At other times we derive a great portion of our pleasures from the mere beauties of nature. Our feelings sally forth and dissipate themselves over the sunny landscape, and we “live abroad and everywhere.” The song of the bird, the murmur of the stream, the breathing fragrance of spring, the soft voluptuousness of summer, the golden pomp of autumn, earth with its mantle of refreshing green, and heaven with its deep delicious blue and its cloudy magnificence,—all fill us with mute but exquisite delight, and we revel in the luxury of mere sensation. But in the depth of winter, when nature lies despoiled of every charm and wrapped in her shroud of sheeted snow, we turn for our gratifications to moral sources. The dreariness and desolation of the landscape, the short gloomy days and darksome nights, while they circumscribe our wanderings, shut in our feelings also from rambling abroad, and make us more keenly disposed for the pleasure of the social circle. Our thoughts are more concentrated, our friendly sympathies more aroused. We feel more sensibly the charm of each other’s society, and are brought more closely together by dependence on each other for enjoyment. Heart calleth unto heart, and we draw our pleasures from the deep wells of loving-kindness which lie in the quiet

recesses of our bosoms, and which, when resorted to, furnish forth the pure element of domestic felicity. — *Christmas*.

Topic is stated in the first sentence.

Developed by contrasting other seasons with winter. "At other times," "But in the depth of winter."

REMARKS. — In its main outlines the paragraph is developed by contrast. The contrast is drawn in particular between the circumstances with their effects at other seasons and the circumstances with their effects during winter. The topic of the whole paragraph is in the first sentence. The topic of the first of the contrasted parts is in the second sentence. This topic is repeated by paraphrase in the third sentence and developed in the fourth sentence. The fifth sentence gives the topic of the second part of the paragraph. This topic is developed in the next sentence, and repeatedly paraphrased in the closing sentences.

#### Subjects.

Contrast in the same way: —

Other seasons with spring.

Other sports with your favorite sport.

Other schools with yours.

Other months with your favorite month.

Other authors with your favorite author.

Other stories with your favorite story.

Rome and Athens.

Other places with your native place.