

PART II.--OF PROPOSITIONS.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Proposition as distinguished from Other Sentences.

Section 172. As in considering the term, we found occasion to distinguish it from words generally, so now, in considering the proposition, it will be well to begin by distinguishing it from other sentences.

Section 173. Every proposition is a sentence, but every sentence is not a proposition.

Section 174. The field of logic is far from being conterminous with that of language. Language is the mirror of man's whole nature, whereas logic deals with language only so far as it gives clothing to the products of thought in the narrow sense which we have assigned to that term. Language has materials of every sort lying strewn about, among which the logician has to seek for his proper implements.

Section 175. Sentences may be employed for a variety of purposes--

- (1) To ask a question;
- (2) To give an order;
- (3) To express a feeling;
- (4) To make a statement.

These various uses give rise respectively to

- (1) The Interrogative Sentence;
- (2) The Imperative Sentence;
- (3) The Exclamatory Sentence;
- (4) The Enunciative Sentence; Indicative Potential.

It is with the last of these only that logic is concerned.

Section 176. The proposition, therefore, corresponds to the Indicative and Potential, or Conditional, sentences of grammar. For it must be borne in mind that logic recognises no difference between a statement of fact and a supposition. 'It may rain to-morrow' is as much a proposition as 'It is raining now.'

Section 177. Leaving the grammatical aspect of the proposition, we must now consider it from the purely logical point of view.

Section 178. A proposition is a judgement expressed in words; and a judgement is a direct comparison between two concepts.

Section 179. The same thing may be expressed more briefly by saying that a proposition is a direct comparison between two terms.

Section 180. We say 'direct comparison,' because the syllogism also may be described as a comparison between two terms: but in the syllogism the two terms are compared indirectly, or by means of a third term.

Section 181. A proposition may be analysed into two terms and a Copula, which is nothing more than the sign of agreement or disagreement between them.

Section 182. The two terms are called the Subject and the Predicate (Section 58).

Section 183. The Subject is that of which something is stated.

Section 184. The Predicate is that which is stated of the subject.

Section 185. Hence the subject is thought of for its own sake, and the predicate for the sake of the subject.