CHAPTER XXII.

Of the Partly Conjunctive Syllogism regarded as an Immediate
Inference.

Section 753. It is the assertion of fact in the minor premiss, where we have
the application of an abstract principle to a concrete instance, which
alone entitles the partly conjunctive syllogism to be regarded as a
syllogism at all. Apart from this the forms of semi-conjunctive
reasoning run at once into the moulds of immediate inference.

Section 754. The constructive mood will then be read in this way--

  If A is B, C is D,
  .'. A being B, C is D.

reducing itself to an instance of immediate inference by subaltern
opposition--

  Every case of A being B, is a case of C being D.
  .'. Some particular case of A being B is a case of C being D.

Section 755. Again, the destructive conjunctive will read as follows--

  If A is B, C is D,
  .'. C not being D, A is not B.

which is equivalent to

  All cases of A being B are cases of C being D.
  .'. Whatever is not a case of C being D is not a case of A being B.
  .'. Some particular case of C not being D is not a case of A being
  B.

But what is this but an immediate inference by contraposition, coming
under the formula

  All A is B,
  .'. All not-B is not-A,

and followed by Subalternation?

Section 756. The fallacy of affirming the consequent becomes by this mode of
treatment an instance of the vice of immediate inference known as the
simple conversion of an A proposition. 'If A is B, C is D' is not

convertible with 'If C is D, A is B' any more than 'All A is B' is
convertible with 'All B is A.'

Section 757. We may however argue in this way

  If A is B, C is D,
  C is D,
  .'. A may be B,

which is equivalent to saying,

  When A is B, C is always D,
  .'. When C is D, A is sometimes B,

and falls under the legitimate form of conversion of A per accidens--

  All cases of A being B are cases of C being D.
  .'. Some cases of C being D are cases of A being B.

Section 758. The fallacy of denying the antecedent assumes the following
form--

  If A is B, C is D,
  .'. If A is not B, C is not D,

equivalent to--

  All cases of A being B are cases of C being D.
  .'. Whatever is not a case of A being B is not a case of C being D.

This is the same as to argue--

  All A is B,
  .'. All not-A is not-B,

an erroneous form of immediate inference for which there is no special
name, but which involves the vice of simple conversion of A, since
'All not-A is not-B' is the contrapositive, not of 'All A is B,' but
of its simple converse 'All B is A.'

Section 759. The above-mentioned form of immediate inference, however
(namely, the employment of contraposition without conversion), is
valid in the case of the U proposition; and so also is simple
conversion. Accordingly we are able, as we have seen, in dealing with
a proposition of that form, both to deny the antecedent and to assert
the consequent with impunity--

If A is B, then only C is D,
.'. A not being B, C is not D;

and again, C being D, A must be B.