SCOTTICISMS.

[These Scotticisms were annexed to the Political Discourses of David Hume. Ed. printed at Edinburgh in 1752 [xiv. 56]; but are not continued in the later editions of that book. As they may, however, be useful to such of our countrymen as would avoid Scotticisms in speaking or writing, we presume that our republicating them will be approved of.]

Will, in the first person, as, I will walk, we will walk, expresses the intention or resolution of the person, along with the future event: in the second and third person, as, You will, he will, they will, it expresses the future action or event, without comprehending or excluding the volition.

Shall, in the first person, whether singular or plural, expresses the future action or event, without excluding or comprehending the intention or resolution: but in the second or third person, it marks a necessity, and commonly a necessity proceeding from the person who speaks; as, He shall walk, You shall repent it.

These variations seem to have proceeded from a politeness in the English; who, in speaking to others, or of others, made use of the term will, which implies volition, even where the event may be the subject of necessity and constraint; and in speaking of themselves, made use of the term shall, which implies constraint, even though the event may be the object of choice.

"Wot" and "know"d are conjunctive moods, subject to the same rule: only we may observe, that in a sentence where there is a condition expressed, and a consequence of that condition, the former always requires "should," and the latter "vot," in the second and third persons; as, If he vot d fall, he wod d break his leg, &c.

These is the plural of this, those of that: the former therefore expresses what is near, the latter, what is more remote; as in the lines of the Duke of Buckingham:

Philosophers and poets, plainly I prove,
In every age the lumpish mass to move: [Thess.
But those were pedants if compared with
Who knew not only to instruct but please.

Where "a relative is to follow, and the subject has not been mentioned immediately before, there is always required: These observations which he made; These kingdoms which Alexander conquered.

In the verbs which end with or it, we frequently omit ed in the preter-perfect, and in the participle; as, He operat; was cultivate. Milton says, In thought nor move elevate; but he is the only author who uses that expression.

Notice should not be used as a verb. The proper phrase is to take notice. Yet I find Lord Shaftesbury uses noticed, the participle: and unnoticed is very common.

Hinder to do, is Scotch. The English phrase is, hinder from doing. Yet Milton says, Hinder'd not Satan to pervert the mind. Book 9.

SCOTCH.

conform to
friends and acquaintances
mal-trat
adver to
proven, improve, ap
proven
plead
incarcerate
tear to pieces
drunk, run
fresh weather
tender
in the long run
notwithstanding of that
contented himself to
do
'tis a question if
discretion
with child to a man
out of hand
simply impossible
a park
in time coming
nothing else
mind it
deneded
several
some better
ament
allernarly
along

Scotland.

Yet the English say both amid and amidst, among and amongst.

evenly
even
as I shall answer
cause him to do it
Yet it is good English to say, make him do it

merry upon
marry to
learn
there, where
exert
effect

This word in English means to effect with point and difficulty.

Yet it is good English to say, a wheel-wright, &c.

"Defunct"
On this subject a correspondent writes, that the Scotch use the verb behove personally; whereas, for two hundred years, to behove (for it behoves me) has not been English. — To this we shall add Johnson’s explanation of this and two or three other words.

To BEH O V E, v. a. To be fit; to be meet; either with respect to duty, necessity, or convenience. It is used only impersonally with in.

NARRATE, v. a. To relate; to tell. A word only used in Scotland.

NOTwithstanding, conj. [This word is properly a participial adjective, as it is compounded of not and withstanding; and answers exactly to the Latin non obstante. It is most properly and analogically used in the ablative case absolute with a noun; as, He is rich notwithstanding his los. It is not so proper to say, He is rich notwithstanding he has left much. Yet this mode of writing is too frequent. Addison has used it. But when a sentence follows, it is more grammatical to insert that; as, He is rich notwithstanding that he has left much. When notwithstanding is used absolutely, the expression is elliptical, this or that being understood.] — 1. Without hindrance or obstruction from. — 2. Although. This use is not proper. — 3. Nevertheless; however.

To PRE JU DICE, v. a. To determine any question beforehand; generally to condemn beforehand.

PRE JU DICE, n. f. s. b. Prepossession; judgment formed beforehand without examination. It is used for prepossession in favour of any thing or against it. — 2. Mischief; detriment; hurt; injury. This sense is only accidental or consequent; a bad thing being called a prejudice, only because prejudice is commonly a bad thing; and is not derived from the original etymology of the word; it were therefore better to use it less; perhaps prejudice ought never to be applied to any mischief which does not imply some partiality or prepossession.

To PRE JU DICE, v. a. 1. To prepossess with unexamined opinions; to fill with prejudices. — 2. To obstruct or injure by prejudices previously raised. — 3. To injure; to hurt; to diminish; to impair; to be detrimental to. This sense, as in the noun, is often improperly extended to meanings that have no relation to the original sense: who can read with patience of an ingredient that prejudices a medicine?

To SUC CUM B, v. a. To yield; to sink under any difficulty. Not in use, except amongst the Scotch.