

Excerpt from *First Book in Composition, Applying the Principles of Grammar to the Art of Composing*, Raleigh, NC, 1863.

LESSON XIV.

EXERCISE.

THE DUKE AND THE GALLEY-SLAVES.

The King of Spain once gave _____ to _____ the Duke of Ossuna to release such of the galley slaves as _____ might think proper. The Duke, as he _____ among the slaves who were _____ at the oars, asked them in succession of what crime they had _____ guilty. They all protested innocence, and _____ him that they had been unjustly _____. One attributed his condemnation to the _____ of an enemy, another to the _____ of his judge. At last, however, he _____ one who admitted that, to save his _____ from starving, he had robbed a man of _____ on _____ highway. The Duke, _____ he heard this, gave him a stroke _____ the back _____ his hand, and said, "Get you gone, you rogue, from the _____ of honest men." so, _____ who confessed _____ fault was released, while the _____, for their want of _____ were compelled to _____ at their labors.

Thus we see _____ we are not likely to lose any thing by a _____ admission of _____ faults. (pg. 28).

In the above excerpt, students were instructed to fill in the blanks to practice grammar.

LESSON XXX.

EXERCISE.

Copy and punctuate the following extract.

THE LEPROSY IN AFRICA. Leprosy that awful disease which covers the body with scales still exists in Africa Whether it is the same leprosy as that mentioned in the Bible is not known but it is regarded as perfectly incurable and so infectious that no one dares to come near the leper. In the south of Africa there is a large lazarus house for victims of this terrible malady It consists of an immense space inclosed by a very high wall and containing fields which the lepers cultivate There is only one entrance and it is strictly guarded When any one is found with the marks of leprosy upon him he is brought to this gate and enters never to return Within this abode of misery there are multitudes of lepers in all stages of the disease Dr Helbeck a missionary of the Church of England from the top of a neighboring hill saw them at work He noticed to particularly sowing peas in the field The one had no hands the other no feet those members having been wasted away by the disease The one who wanted the hands was carrying the other who wanted the feet on his back and he again bore in his hands the bag of seed and dropped a pea every now and then which the other pressed into the ground with his foot and so they managed the work of one man between the two

Such is the prison house of disease. Ah how little do we realize the misery that is in the world. How unthankful are we for the blessings which God bestows upon us while he denies them to others. (pg. 89)

Branson, L. *First Book in Composition, Applying the Principles of Grammar to the Art of Composing*. Branson, Farrar & Co., 1863.