10. The Distributive Adjectives, 'each', 'every', &c., are joined to a Singular Noun, and consequently the Verb is singular: 'every tree is known by its fruits'.

The following are examples of a not uncommon error: 'neither of the sisters were very much deceived' (Thackeray's Vanity Fair). 'Neither of my brothers do anything to make this place amusing' (Virginians).

They also take a Singular Pronoun when applied to one Gender: 'England expects every man to do his duty'; 'it seems natural that every mother should suckle her own child'.

But when both Genders are implied, it is allowable to use the Plural: 'let each esteem other better than themselves'.

Grammarians frequently call this construction an error: not reflecting that it is equally an error to apply 'his' to feminine subjects. The best writers furnish examples of the use of the plural as a mode of getting out of the difficulty. 'Every person's happiness depends in part upon the respect they meet in the world' (Paley). 'Every one must judge of their own feelings' (Byron). 'If the part deserve any comment, every considering Christian will make it to themselves as they go' (Defoe). 'Everybody began to have their vexation.' 'Everybody around her was gay, was busy, prosperous, and important: each had their objects of interest, their part, their dress, their favourite scene, their friends and confederates.' 'Had the doctor been contented to take my dining tables, as anybody in their senses would have done' (Miss Austen).

Sometimes strict grammar is preserved thus: 'Everybody called for his or her favourite remedy, which nobody brought'. But this construction is felt to be too cumbrous to be kept up, as we see in the following example: — 'The institution of property, reduced to its essential elements, consists in the recognition, in each person, of a right to the exclusive disposal of what he or she has produced by their own exertions', &c. (J. S. Mill). 'The heart is a secret, even to him (or her) who has it in his own breast' (Thackeray). 'A very ingenious device is seen in the following example: 'either a horse or a mare has lost its shoe'.

No doubt there are more instances of the employment of 'his', but it must by no means be maintained that this form is exclusively right.