

but that in a time when language was unusually plastic each writer had his characteristic ways of moulding it, and that the ways of Sophocles were original and very subtle. 'Common-Law,' however, is a less philosophical term than 'Sprachbewusstsein' (speech-consciousness), for which Dr. Kennedy makes it an equivalent—'Sprach-gefühl' would come nearer to what we both mean—and for this very reason, that the former term conveys the notion of something fixed and outward in the place of something that is inward and free; it puts that which forbids in the place of that which inspires. Adopting however, for the moment, Dr. Kennedy's figure of speech, let me remark that there are periods of history (1) in which the Common-Law is definite but unwritten, others (2) in which it is rendered uncertain by the introduction of new elements, and (3) that long before a digest of it has become possible, its principles and application in the usage of the courts have been growing more and more imperatively determinate.

Now, what is meant by a fixed grammatical rule? In one sense, as Dr. Kennedy truly says, there is no such thing in Greek Literature of the Classical Period. The 'Common-Law which is Greek syntax' remained uncodified 'for more than 200 years' after the time of Sophocles. This is part of what I meant to affirm. In proof of it I adverted to the recognized difference in point of regularity between a Ciceronian period, and a sentence of any classical Greek writer¹. Redundant negatives, the apposition of clauses, attraction in its various modes, the return from a dependent to an independent construction, the use of the primary conjunctive in past time, these and other irregularities can hardly be said to exist in Latin². But

¹ In the present edition I have sought to obviate the effect of a too isolated treatment, by occasionally inserting between brackets examples of corresponding idioms from other Greek writers. On p. 62, in ll. 11, 12, and 14, 15, the two examples from Pindar have been accidentally transposed. Students are respectfully requested to correct this error.

² Cp. Herm. Opusc. vol. iii. pp. 145,

6. Such anomalies, although not acknowledged, exist even in published writings of the nineteenth century. Thus Dr. Kennedy can speak of 'undue exaggeration,' and one of our chief contemporary masters of English style has written or at least printed as follows:—'No event is too extraordinary to be impossible.'