

Martha fell down," but "*she* fell down." If we were speaking of a boy, we should say "*he* fell down;" if of a table, "*it* fell down;" if of many girls, boys, or tables, "*they* fell down." The pronoun *it*, though we chiefly use the word for things, not persons, is often used, as well as the noun it stands for, as if it were a person. We say of the table, "*it* stands steadily," as if it had life, and could move about, or of a pen, "*it* writes well."

Pronouns are said to have cases,—a case means a state or condition. There are three cases belonging to pronouns; the nominative, the possessive, and the objective. Pronouns are said to be in the *nominative* case where they name the person or thing which is or does something, or suffers something, as *I am, I love, I am loved. He is, he fears, he is feared. We are, we love, we are loved. I, thou, he, she, it, we, you, they*, are pronouns in the nominative case.

When we speak of these pronouns as possessing something,—having things and persons belonging to them, we say they are in the *possessive* case or state. For example, speaking of yourself as possessing a book, you would not say, "that book is *I's*, or *me's*," but, "that book is *mine*," or "*my* book." We do not say "it is *thou's*," or "*thee's*," but "it is *thy* book," or "it is *thine*." Nor should we say that book is *he's*, or *she's*, or *we's*, or *us's*, or *you's*, or *they's* or *their's*, but that book is *hers*, or *her* book, *his* or *yours* or *your* book, *theirs* or *their* book.

Now as all these pronouns—*my, mine, thy, thine, his, hers, its, our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs*, show that something is possessed by them,