

more than one we should add *est*, and call it *prettiest*. These are called degrees of comparison—*prettier* is the *comparative* degree, and *prettiest* the *superlative*. Superlative means *above others*. Sometimes other words are used to denote these degrees. Much, makes *more* in the comparative, and *most* in the superlative. Good, makes *better*—*best*. There are many other adjectives of this kind.

The numbers, one, two, three, twenty, a hundred, are adjectives; they are added to the noun, not to show the quality but the number. *One man, fifty children, &c.*

LESSON XCII.

PART II.—OF VERBS.

The most important part of speech next to a noun, is a verb.

All those words which express something we do, or which is done to us, are called verbs. *I love, I am loved; I call, I am called.* *Call* and *love*, are said to be active verbs, because they *do* something—some action. *Am loved, am called*, are said to be *passive verbs*, because they do nothing, they are in a quiet or passive state—something is done to them. When I say *I am called*, you know that somebody is doing something to me. There is another kind of verb which expresses merely that we *are*, as *I am, I exist*. This kind of verb is sometimes called the neuter verb, because it is neither active nor passive, but it is also called a verb of being. So there are three kinds of verbs—active, passive, and neuter: *I tell; I am told. I am.*