ON THE HISTORY

OF

THE DEFINITE TENSES
IN ENGLISH

BY

ALFRED ÅKERLUND

A.-B. PH. LINDSTEDTS UNIV.-BOKH.
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ALFRED ÅKERLUND

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PREFACE.

The following investigation, in an abridged form, was originally meant to appear as part of a more comprehensive work, announced in the 'Englische Studien', band 40 (1909), under the title: 'The Origin and Development of the Definite Tenses in English'.

My interest in the subject was at first roused by the diverging views on the origin of the definite tenses in Modern English.

Thus much may suffice to say here concerning these views: some scholars recognize in the -ing-form the present participle with the new ending, and are of opinion that they have developed directly from corresponding periphrastic forms in Old English, where we have to do with the old participle — which is also the case in texts belonging to northern dialects in Middle English; other scholars, on the contrary, hold that their origin is to be sought in such expressions as 'he is a-going', a standing for the preposition on, and the form in -ing being not the participle proper but the verbal noun.

Later on, when working out my material, I grew more and more interested in the various uses of the periphrastic forms, be their origin what it may, and I thought it worth while to deal with them in a comparatively exhaustive way, while I was about it.

In the present treatise, therefore, I altogether turn my back on the verbal noun question.
I start from the fact that the construction 'be + ing' in Modern English is morphologically, if not historically, the same as that occurring in Old English, and follow it from this period through Middle and Early Modern English, adding at the end a section on the compound definite tenses.

In short, the treatise is intended to give, in the first place, a history of the periphrasis (in the active voice) from an exclusively syntactical point of view, and secondly, to contribute, so far as the investigation may furnish conclusions on this point, towards the formation of an opinion on its origin, by comparing its functions during the different stages of the language.

In a later essay I shall take up this question from the point of view of the verbal-noun expressions, by giving an account of their origin and their relations to the definite tenses, in other words: a history of the 'a-phrases' — such as the one quoted above — in standard English, dialects, and vulgar speech, this account also comprising the rise and growth of the passive definite tenses.

Finally, I desire to record my hearty thanks to my teacher, Professor Eilert Ekwall, of Lund, University, for the valuable advice and encouragement he has given me during the progress of my work; to Mr. Charles Scott Fearenside, formerly English Lector in the University of Lund, who has read through the treatise in manuscript and in proof with a view to normalizing my English; and lastly to the officials of the University Library at Lund for their unfailing courtesy and help in facilitating my researches.

Landskrona, September 1911.

Alfred Åkerlund.
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1 See also Grenville Grove, Modern Engelsk Lärobok, Del II Grammatiken, p. 53 ff. — This book came into my hands when my own work was just finished.
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1. Old and Early Middle English.

Chr. = Earle and Plummer, Two Saxon Chronicles Parallel, Oxford 1802, 1899.
V. a V. = Vices and Virtues, ed. Holthausen, E. E. T. S. 89.

2. Late Middle English.

(i) Midland and Southern Dialects.

Hav. = Havelok the Dane, ed. Skeat, E. E. T. S. e. s. 4.
Cl. = Cleanness.
Fer. = Sir Ferumbras, ed. Hertrage E. E. T. S. e. s. 34.
C. T. = The Canterbury Tales
Cl. T. = The Clerk’s Tale
C. Y. Prol. = The Canon’s Yeoman’s Prologue
Kn. T. = The Knightes Tale
M. T. = The Milleres Tale
P. Prol. = The Parson’s Prologue
Prol. = The Prologue
Sh. T. = The Shipmannes Tale
Sq. T. = The Squieres Tale
Troil. = Troilus and Criseyde

Rom. R. = The Romaut of The Rose
C. Am. = Confessio Amantis.
Lydg. T. o Gl. = Lydgate’s Temple of Glas, ed. Schick, E. E. T. S. e. s. 60.
George Ashby’s Poems, ed. Bateson, E. E. T. S. e. s. 76.
D & o. = Dicta et opiniones diversorum philosophorum
P. Pr. = Active Policy of a Prince
Pr. R. = A Prisoner’s Reflections
God. = Godeffroy of Bolyne, ed. Colvin, E. E. T. S. e. s. 64.

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Ed. II = Edward the Second

Faust = The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus

Tamb. = Tamburlaine The Great

Peele, David And Bethsabe

The Old Wife's Tale

Greene, Friar Bacon And Friar Bungay

A Looking-Glass For London And England

A Maiden's Dream [The Dramatic And Poetical Works Of Robert Greene & George Peele, ed. Dyce, London]

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Reprinted from the First Folio, ed. Porter and Clarke, London.

Anth. = The Tragedie Of Anthonie, And Cleopatra ..... vol. 12

As = As You Like It ........................................ vol. 4

Cor. = The Tragedy Of Coriolanus ................................. vol. 9

Haml. = The Tragedie Of Hamlet ................................ vol. 11

Hy. V = The Life Of Henry The Fift .............................. vol. 7

Hy. VIII = The Life Of Henry The Eight ...................... vol. 8

Jul. C. = The Tragedie Of Julius Cæsar ............................ vol. 10
4. **Modern English.**

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<td>W. W.</td>
<td>The Way of the World</td>
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<td>Add.</td>
<td>Addison; Budg. = Budgell.</td>
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<td>St. S. J.</td>
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<td>Sheridan, The Rivals [The British Classical Authors, L. Herrig, Brunswick 1894].</td>
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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

1. General Character of the Definite Tenses in Recent English.

The existence of the periphrastic and simple forms side by side furnishes the English language with an admirable means of expressing even very subtle shades of meaning: the use of a definite tense may indeed represent a stylistic nicety of an exquisite effect, just strong enough to be felt and appreciated, but too delicate, I am tempted to say, to allow of being properly analyzed. They prove, then, frequently enough, rather hard to judge; and on the whole, to get at the intrinsic character of the definite tenses is perhaps no easy task.

Most authors agree, however, that they have a general meaning of duration which is to be looked upon as their main characteristic.

Western, who has treated this subject somewhat fully, explains the difference between the simple and the periphrastic forms thus:

As a rule, one can only say that, whereas the simple tenses express the infinite and the unlimited, as: 'the church stands on a hill', 'I have never seen him', or the momentary, as: 'he fell dead', or a series of events, as: 'when he had gone, I sat down and wept', — the periphrastic tenses imply that the action or the state of things is limited
within a certain space of time, either directly expressed or to be understood, as: 'he has been sleeping for six hours', or that it is simultaneous with another action, as: 'he was dressing when I entered the room'. (Indledning, 2).

This pronouncement is not intended to stand as an exhaustive definition of the definite tenses ("At gi nogen udtømmende og nøjagtig definition af de omskrevne verbalformers brug i engelsk er neppe muligt"). — Indledning, 1.), but it covers the main uses.

Taking it, therefore, as the starting-point for forming a more general and comprehensive definition, we may sum up the different statements by saying that the indefinite tenses are used where no special time is thought of, whilst the definite tenses are employed when this is the case. Thus put, I venture to say that it gives us the key to an explanation of the other uses ¹ as well, and I arrive at the following view of the matter:

The fundamental principle, that which underlies all the different functions of the definite tenses, is that the periphrasis gives, so to speak, a stronger inner stress to the verb, makes it more sentence-stressed, by calling the interest directly to the idea of time: the indefinite tense is more neutral and apt to act in a way more as a copula than as a tense, properly taken, whereas the definite tense is more pregnant in this respect and is preferred where the action, as such, is to be emphasized.

2. Views of Previous Investigators Concerning the Old English Periphrasis.

Old English possesses an equivalent to the Modern English definite tenses in a periphrasis formed by the verbs 'wesan' or 'beon' with the present participle.

¹ See Concluding Survey.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

It occurs already in the oldest texts and was noticed remarkably early by grammarians; but until lately no thorough investigation as to its character and syntactical uses has been undertaken.

Most of the authors concerned agree in attributing to the Old English periphrasis about the same meaning and grammatical functions as characterize the corresponding modern forms, e. g. Mätzner, Einenkel, Müller, and others.

Several scholars, however, are of a somewhat different opinion.

Thus Sweet, in New Engl. Gr. II, § 2203, remarks that the extended forms in Old English are ‘only vaguely differentiated from the simple forms’. In § 2205 he supposes the fundamental difference to be that the periphrastic tenses ‘are associated with the idea of incomplecion’, and then admits that, as a natural result of this, they very often occur in constructions which involve the idea of continuity or progression (§ 2206). — Thus far, I think, Sweet’s remarks will hold good, but then he ventures the following restriction: ‘But that this idea is only a secondary one is shown by those instances in which the context excludes the idea of duration, as when the periphrase is accompanied by the adverb sôna ‘immediately’, as in ha sôna on anôinne haes gefeoh tes wes se munt Garganus bifigende mid ormætre cwacunge’. — That the periphrasis in this instance, as indeed in some others as well, admits of an inchoative meaning in no wise excludes the idea of continuity: on the contrary, it must always be understood that the action in question is not only beginning, but also that it continues for some time. Thus in the above example we might very well infer that Mount Garganus ‘started

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1 This is Aelfric’s translation of the Latin: Garganus immenso tremore concutitur. — Se Max Förster, Zu den Blickling Homilies, Herrig’s Archiv 91, p. 194.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

trembling', which certainly implies duration. Moreover, one is justified in saying that, in these instances, the durative element is not only admissible but, as a rule, predominant, the inchoative meaning being only the secondary one.

Jespersen holds (Growth and Structure etc., p. 205) that Old English 'he was feohtende' corresponds to Modern English 'he used to fight'. — It will not be denied that, in some cases, the Old English periphrasis involves such an idea; but if Jespersen's interpretation should be taken to mean that the main use of the extended tenses in Old English is that they denote a habit, it must be downright rejected. — It would seem as if Jespersen had adopted this interpretation in order to support his conjecture of the altogether different origin of the Old English periphrasis and its modern counterpart, by thus assuming different functions for the two extreme stages of the language.

Lately the periphrasis in Old English has been treated, on a larger scale, by no fewer than three scholars, namely, Erdmann and Pessels, and lastly by Pütiman, who has also brought some specimens of the Early English period under his investigation.

Without entering into details in this place I confine myself to stating that the results arrived at agree on all main points, and especially in recognizing the idea of duration or progression as the general character of the periphrasis.

1 Sweet has (§ 2207): 'began to tremble'.
2 The passage referred to runs as follows: 'The periphrastic tenses I am reading, I was reading, I have been reading, I shall be reading, etc. were not fully developed even in Shakespeare's time and seem to have little, if anything, to do with the Old English he was feohtende 'he used to fight'; the modern forms are aphetic for I am a-reading, where a represents the preposition on and the form in -ing is not the participle, but the noun.'
Only I think fit to quote, in its entirety, Erdmann's very interesting definition (p. 12): 'The Participle Present is used to form, together with the various parts of the auxiliary verbs wesan and beôn, that periphrastic conjugation which is commonly called the Progressive form, and the characteristic of which is that it denotes an action as being in progress at a certain time, present, future, or past. It differs in this from the corresponding simple forms, which represent the action merely as a fact, that takes, will take, or has taken place. Being the adjective form of the verb, the Part. Present naturally has in its character a shade of permanence and durability, that does not belong to the rest of the verb. Accordingly, though actions put in the simple forms also must be considered to occupy some space of time and the two forms may not unfrequently be interchanged, without infringing the sense of the passage, there will however be found to exist a perceptible distinction between their several ways of giving the same idea. This distinction may be greater or less in particular cases, but it is seldom quite effaced. By using a tense of this periphrastic conjugation, the speaker, mentally entering into the very time of events, describes the action as going on, as continuing; whereas, if choosing the simple form, he would take no notice of it from that point of view, but mention it as a fact only'.
I. OLD AND EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH.

**Occurrence.** Both in Old and in Early Middle English the periphrasis is very sparingly used, as compared with modern usage.

*Beowulf* musters only 3 examples, and in the whole of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* we have only about 24. In Aelfric's *Lives of Saints* the number of instances seems at first sight fairly large — about 100; but when we take into consideration the great length of this work, one must say that, even here, the frequency is, comparatively, small. Also, it is a striking fact that the occurrence of the extended forms is here very uneven: while some of the legends exhibit no instances at all, e. g. II, IV, IX, X, XI, XIV, XV, XVII, XIX, etc., we find them in comparatively great numbers in others, especially in XXIII with 13 instances, and, even more, in XXIII B, where some two dozen are on record. This might partly depend on the more or less free use Aelfric made of the Latin sources which were at his disposal. In the works translated from the Latin, in fact, the periphrasis is much more frequently used than in the works that are original or partly original. Thus in the Blickling Homilies which are, as has been shown by Max Förster ¹, a very close translation from the Latin, there

¹ Zu den Blickling Homilies, Herrig's Archiv 91.
are no fewer than about 130 instances, a considerable number of which occur in Hom. XIII, where we find the periphrasis on almost every line. In the Old English Homilies there are 26, which is certainly no great number for a book of that size. As regards the Genesis and Exodus I have gone through the greater part of the text itself and the whole of the glossary, with the meagre result of finding only two examples. The instances are likewise very few in other texts belonging to this period: The Life of Saint Katherine and Alfred's Proverbs have only two or three each. These texts, however, are rather short. An exception from the general scantiness is afforded in the Vices and Virtues, with 36 instances of the periphrastic form.

The tense which is most often met with is the past, while, owing to the narrative nature of most of the texts concerned, the present is comparatively scarce.

A. Main Uses.

1. The Present Tense.

(i) Defined. The function of the periphrasis is seldom quite clear, unless it is strengthened by time-definitions, which, however, is the case in only a very limited number of instances.

It then expresses the actual present in some cases where the definitions are 'nu' (Ae. L. XVI, 217), or 'nu gyt' (Ae. L. XXIII, 452), which even more emphasizes the present moment. Occasionally the complement lies in a clause, as in V. a V. 47, 14 and A. Pr. 40.

In other cases the definitions employed show that the periphrasis implies duration, as in O. E. H. II, 175, 18 ('eure'), V. a V. 137, 31 ('niht and daig').
Examples.

Ae. L. I, 45. Symble he bid gyfende. And he ne wanað swa-
̃hæn nan þing his.

— XVI, 217. and ða synd nu ealle on þam ecan wuldre
for heora clænnysse mid criste wunigende.

— XXIII, 452. and decius se casere is nu gyt smeagende
hwæt we gefaran habban.

O. E. H. II, 175, 18. Ðe se is eure wagiende.

— 21. þis wrecche world. þat eure is wagiende noht fra
stedo to stede ; ac fro time to time.

V. a V. 21, 12. To alle do halgen ðe hier on liue waren ibo-
ren, and nu mid ðre lauerde gode wunigende bied, ic
clepie

— 47, 14. ic ðe besche and bidde ðat tu ðese halwende
lore on write sette, for ðan ic am michel þenchinde ðar
hwile ðe ic on ðese wrecche lichame am wuniende,

— 137, 17. Godd is hauere fastinde.

— 31. For ðan ðe gode mann is niht and daiʒ þeinkinde
hu he muʒe gode icwemen, and him betst hersumen;
aswa is ðies beswikene mann niht and daiʒ þeinkinde
hwu he muʒe fallen [h]is uŋgesali beli mid swete metes
and drenches.

A. Pr. p. 40. If hit so bi-tydeþ,
þat þu bern ibidest,
þe hwile hit is lutel,
ler him monþewes;
þanne hit is wexynde,
hit schal wende þar-to;
þe betere hit schal ðworpe
euer buuen eorþe.

Remarks.

Ae. L. I, 45. Here the expression involves an idea of
recurrence.

O. E. H. II, 175, 18. Translated from the Latin ‘Mare
semper est in motu’.

(ii) Undefined. In the majority of the examples found
the tense occurs by itself, and the function of the periphras-
is in many cases scarcely differs from that of the simple
form, as, for instance, in Ae. L. I, 49 and in O. E. H. II, 175, 25. Here the extended tense seems to be called into existence chiefly by virtue of the durative or rather progressive character of the verbs in question ('creopende' and 'fleonde' respectively).

Rather often the participle approaches an adjective in meaning: Ae. L. I, 131; Ae. L. XVI, 293; Ae. L. XXXIV, 114; V. a V. 15, 23; V. a V. 137, 6; here the periphrasis seems to denote *absolute duration*. In the last example one might also say that it stands instead of the indefinite present, according to modern notions: the translation 'helps much' is the correct one to render the meaning of the Middle English expression 'is — — swiðe helpinde'.

Thus, on the whole, one must say that where it stands undefined, the present periphrastic very seldom denotes the actual present in the same strict sense as we have it in Modern English; a few examples, however, might be singled out as fairly good specimens: Ae. L. V, 417; O. E. H. I, 43; V. a V. 21, 3; V. a V. 95, 3; V. a V. 107, 8. Note, however, that the verbs employed here, 'eardigende' and 'wuniðende', are by nature durative.

**Examples.**

and other is *halwende* þæt is þæt se man for his synnum gemnootsige.

Ae. L. XXIII, B, 244. god sy gebletsod se ðe is sawla hælu *tiligende*;

— 227. ðe gedafenad abbud Zosimus to biddenne and to bletisgenne. forþæð þu eart underwreðed mid þære sacerd-
lican lare. and þu eart *tellende* cristies gerþynu mid þam gyþum þære godcundlican

— XXXIV, 114. We habbað cyne-helmas halige mid us
scinende swa swa rose. and snaw-hwite swa swa lilie.
þa þu ne mihþ geseon þeah þe hi *scinende* beon.

O. E. H. I, 43. ah prud heo wes swide and modi. and ligere and
swikel. and wreðful and ontful. and forði heo bid *wuniende*
ine þisse pine.

— 95. On culfre onlicnesse and on fures heowe wes godes
gast isceawed. forðon þet he deð þa þe boð bilehwite.
and wid-utan ufelnesse. and *birnde* on godes willan.

— II, 175, 25. He is *fleonde* alse shadewe and ne stont neure
on one stede.

V. a V. 15, 23. ðe deade man[n]es þruh, þe is widuten ihwiteð,
and wid-inne *stinkende* and full of wormes.

— 21, 3. To þæn ic clepige þiec þe bied *wunigende* mid
gemanliche hlauerde gode,

— 35, 28. He wisdeð des mannes idang[c] de he to-cumð, 
oder durh halige writes oder durh hali sermuns, þe he
him durh sume wise manne de he is inne *wuniende*, sant.

— 37, 32. þif du wilt sikerliche wunigen on karite and on
gode, þanne do du alswa we hit a boke finden iwriten,
þat is, þat tu mid rihte geleane and mid faste hope and
mid sode luue þie werchinde dat god de du iliefst.

— 57, 11. To sume menn hie cumð and farð, and mid
sume men hie is *wuniende*, and on swide feawe menn hie
is *rixende*. On da manne de hie is *rixende*, þis [is]
de tacone: al swo de woorlde-mann lihtliche leþ[c]þed of
ydelnesse de he isied vorer iherð, al swa de gastliche mann
de hie on rixeð, lihtliche wepð oder sobbed,

— 59, 14. godes milsce last æuremo (to) alle do mannen de
him bied *dradinde*,

— 75, 16. and wite du te sode, bute du him bie hier *tei-
dinde* hwat swa hit de ratt to donne: danne du cumst — —
, danne du arl itwamd fram ðine lichame, hit te
wile betachin — —
PRESENT TENSE

V. a V. 75, 22. Diuicie si affluant, nolite cor apponere, 'Worl-des eihtte, gif hie is swide rixinde to deward, ne do du naht dine herte ðerto,
— 95, 3. Carited arist up fram de grundwalle, and beclepð all de wouh, (and) alle de bied in do hali huse wuni-
ende;
— 95, 11. For ði he bitt ðat pais bie aider on licame and
on saule, and ðat ðies hali mihte sibsumnesse bie rixende
on geu bāðe;
— 95, 23. for ði he bitt dat pais bie aider on licame and
on saule, and dat ðies hali mihte sibsumnesse bie rixende
on geu bade;
— 95, 11. For ði he bitt dat pais bie aider on licame and
on saule, and dat ðies hali mihte sibsumnesse bie rixende
on geu bade;
— 95, 23. Íc am on muchele aruedneses, on hungry and on
durste(s), on wacches and on swinkes, and on manige(s)
kennes wrecchades, sori and sorhfull, woninde and we-
innde.
— 101, 14. Œif ani cumð and bri[n]gþ tidinges of idelne(s)-
ses, and is spekende sortwordes de arcered up hlettres,
one wuñienge ne haue he mid ðe,
— 107, 8. Þiþ śiche halige mihte, hie is tur and strengþe
to alle ðo mihte(s) de þar inne bied wunigende,
— 133, 24. Þat is, ðat he wîrdliche him loki mid alle hise
lemes of his likame. Hise eigene, þat hie ne bien to
swide gawrinde hider and zeond; þo earen, ðat hie blide-
liche ne hlesten ydelnesses, — —
— 137, 6. To alle ðo nedes de mann hafð to donne þanne
is (þes)e hali mihte swide helpinde.

Remarks.

Ae. L. I, 49. It is scarcely possible to perceive any
difference in meaning between the periphrastic
tense 'syndan creopende' and the simple forms
'gað', 'fleoḍ' and 'swimmað'.
— 176. 'Heo' applies to 'seo sawul'.
O. E. H. II, 175, 25. 'Qui fugit velut umbra et — —'.
It is not impossible that the adverb 'neure' in
the second clause has been felt as an equiva-
 lent to an 'eure' in the first, and thus has
brought the periphrasis into use there.
V. a V. 57, 11. Here the periphrasis is very happily
chosen, according to modern notions, to mark
the intensive-durative idea in 'is wunende',
'is rixende' — it is concerning God's grace — as opposed to 'cumð and farð'. This stylistic nicety, however, may have been far from the author's mind: we find 'is rixende' and 'on rixeð' by the side of one another and under the same conditions, i.e. without any difference of meaning being perceptible. Thus the appearance of the periphrasis would seem to be rather arbitrary.

V. a V. 59, 14. The extended tense might here, perhaps, be considered to imply a constancy, a frame of mind.

— 75, 22. It is possible that 'affluant' has been felt to be a verb of a marked progressive character, perhaps with some nuance of intensity also (note the addition 'swiðe'), and thus the extended form has been considered as the most apt to convey this idea.

— 95, 23. Here I consider the participles to be of an adjectival nature (note also that they are co-ordinated with real adjectives): the periphrasis denotes a habit, almost verging on a quality.

— 133, 24. Observe the alternating occurrence of periphrastic and simple forms: 'bien — — gaw-rinde', 'hlesten'.

2. The Past Tense.

(i) Defined. This tense occurs more often with definitions of time than without. These may consist of temporal adverbs or adverbial expressions, indicating either point or length of time.

As examples of the former category, which might be termed actuality, we may take Chr. D. 1052 ('ða'),
O. E. H. I, 225 ('þa'), O. E. H. II, 3 ('on elche of þese þrie times').

For the latter, which rather represents an action or a state of things as going on for a certain time, and might be called *qualified duration*, we have many more examples, of which I mention Chr. A. 871 ('ōþ niht'), Chr. C. 1066 ('lange on dæg'), Chr. E. 1100 ('æfre'), Ae. L. XX, 125 ('ðrittig geara'), Ae. L. XXIII, 493 ('æfre'), Ae. L. XXIII B, 577 ('lange'), V. a V. 51, 5 ('þrie and þihti wintre and an half'). The complements, as may be seen above, may denote *perpetuity* ('æfre'), or *limited duration* ¹, either in more general terms ('lange on dæg', 'lange') or else by distinct statements ('ðrittig geara', 'þrie and þihti wintre and an half').

Occasionally, according to the nature of the complements, it is hardly possible to decide whether point or length of time is meant, as, for instance, in Chr. E. 1104, where 'to þysan timan' may be rendered either by 'at this time' or 'during this time'.

Often enough the definition lies in a separate clause, more or less connected with the clause where we have the periphrasis. Here, at least in many cases, we can distinguish between *actuality* and *limited duration*. The former category I find represented in Ae. L. XVIII, 421; Ae. L. XXIII, 584; O. E. H. I, 89; V. a V. 149, 12; the latter in Chr. A. 755; Ae. L. XXXVII, 4; O. E. H. II, 33 and 131. In all these cases, we have to do with an 'oddæt'-or a 'forte þat'-clause, and here the action is sometimes, as in

¹ The terms I employ to designate the main uses of the definite tenses are these: 1. *actuality*, e. g. and decius se casere is nu gyt smeagende hwæt we gefaran habban. (Ae. L. XXIII, 452.). 2. *qualified duration*, comprising: (a) *perpetuity*, e. g. Godd is haure fastinde. (V. a V. 137, 17.); (b) *limited duration*, e. g. þa wæs he seofon mondæs wunigende swa blind. (Ae. L. XXI, 270.).
Chr. A. 755, represented as going on until a certain result is reached.

In some instances we find a combination of adverbial and clause to strengthen the force of the periphrasis, as in Chr. A. 755 (p. 48, 9); Chr. A. 855; Ae. L. XXI, 270; Ae. L. XXIII B, 45 and 803.

On the whole, it may be said that, where the definition is an adverb or an adverbial expression, the periphrasis implies *qualified duration* in by far the greatest number of the instances found, but that, when the definition is a clause, the two categories *actuality* and *limited duration* are on a balance with each other.

**Examples.**

Chr. A. 755 (p. 48, 4). and hie alle on ðone Cyning wærun *feohtende* of ðat hie hine ofslægenne hæfdon; [E: and he ealle on ðone cining *feohtende wæeron.* of ðat hig hine ofslægen hæfdon.]


— A. 755 (p. 48, 26). and hie þa ymb þa gatu *feohtende* wæron of þæt hie þær inne fulgon,

— A. 855 (p. 66, 8). and þy ilcan geare ferde to Rome mid micelre weorþnesse, and þær was .Xii. monaþ *wuniende*, and þa him ham weard þor,

[E: And þy ilcan geare ferde to Rome mid mycellum wurdþicip, and þær *wunade* .Xii. monað. and he feng to Karles dohter Francna cining þa he hamweard wæs.]

— A. 871 (p. 70, 28). and *onfeohtende* wæron of þiht:

— C. 918 (p. 105, 25). Ac swiðe hraedlice þæs de hi þæs geneorden hæfde heo gefôr .Xii. nihtun är middan sumera. binnan Tama weorþige ðy eætôþan geare þæs de heo Myrcna anweald mid riht hlaforddome *healdende wæs*.

— C. 1066 (p. 198, 23). and hi þær togeædere fengon. and swyðe heardlice lunge on daeg *feohtende* wæron.

— D. 1052 (p. 175, 15). þa wæs Eadward cyng on Gleawcestre *sittende*.

— E. 1085 (p. 215, 33). Ða Willem Englalandes cyng þe þa wæs *sittende* on Normandige. fordig he ahte ægðer ge
Englaland ge Normandige. þís geaxode, he ferde into Englalonde — —

Cl. E. 1098. Toforan sce Michaeles mæssan ætywde seo heofon swilce heo for neah ealle þa niht byrnende wære.
— E. 1100 (p. 235, 21). and þurh yfelra manna rádas þe him æfre gecweme wæran. and þurh his agene gitsunga. he æfre þas leode mid here and mid ungylde tyrwigende wæs.
— E. 1104 (p. 239, 21). Nis eade to asecgenne þises landes earmða þe hit to þysan timan dreogende wæs.

Ae. L. XIII, 147. Wel we magon gedencan hu wel hit ferde mid ûs.

— XVIII, 421. Isaias se witega wæs awæg farande. ac god hine gecyrde þus him eft secgende. Gecyr to ezechian — —
— XX, 125. Þry suna he gestrynde. and hi siddan buta ðritig geara wæron wunigende butan hæmede. and fela æmyssan worhton. od þæt se wer ferde
to nuruclicere drohtunge. — —
— XXI, 1. ON EADGARES DAGUM ÞÆS ÆDELAN CYNINCges.

þaða þis igland wæs wunigende on sibbe.
— 270. þa wæs he seofon monðas wunigende swa blind. and his hlyst næfde. oþþæt he mid geleafan ferde
to þam halgan swyðune. — —
— XXIII, 220. and swa oft swa he into ðære byrig eode. he hine on wædlan hywe æteowde. and dearnunga wæs
smeagende hu hit on ðæs caseres hirede ferde.
— 493. and æfre he him wæs onsittende þæt hine sun man geceowe.
— 584. Þa he þus wæs to heom sprecende. and swa hrewowlisc his ceap gedrīfan hæfde. hí sóna ealle up stodon.
— 621. and æfre wæs his uneaðnys wexende.
— 717. Þa malchus þas word gehyrde þe se portgeref him swá hetelice wæs tosprecende. he ofdraed sloh adún þær-
rihte.
— 801. he arás þa of þære flora. and of þam wacan sæce þe he lange on-uppan dreorig wæs sittende. and he þan-
code gode ælimihtigum.
Ae. L. XXIII, 45. swa hé sylf sæde Zosimus. þæt hé sylf ware
fræm þam modorlicum beordum on þæt mynster beaest.
and ðæt þæt þrea and fiffige geár he wæs þær on þam
regole drohtningende. and æfter þrysun he wæs geecnysse
fræm sumum gehāncum.
— 50. and he wæs þus spreccende. hwæder ænig munuc on
eordan sy. — — ðas and þysum gelícum him þencendum,
him æt-stød sum engel. and him to cwæð. — —
— 415. Ac swilce me hwilc strang meniu ongean stode.
þæt me þone ingang beluce. swa me seo færlice godes
wracu þa duru bewerede; ðæde ic eðt standende on þæs
temples cafertune wæs.
— 562. and þus ic seofohtyne geare rynum on mænig-fealdum
freednyssum swá swá ic ær cwæð. winnende wæs on
eallum þingum of þísne andweardan dæg and me on
fultune wæs. and mine wisan recendene seo halige godes
cennestre.
— 577. þus ic wæs lange on mænig-fealdum. and mislicum
nydþearfmyssum. and on unmetum costnungum winnende.
and wraxligende.
— 803. and ] Zosimus on þam mynstræ wæs drohtningige.
an hund wintra. and þa to drihtne hleorde.
— XXV, 728. Ionaðas wunode on wurðmynte ða lange.
and cynegas hine wurðodon mid wordum
and gifum.
and he sige geferde on manegum gefeohtum.
and æfre wæs winnende embe godes willan.
— XXXI, 28. His mod wæs swa-peah æfre embe mynstru
smeagende.
— XXXVII, 4. — — & he on cristes lâre
wel þeonða wæs. oddæt he weard ge-hâdod
to halgum diâcone.

O. E. H. I, 89. Ðat halie hired cristes apostles weren wuniende
edmōlich þe heore ibœden on ane upifœre — — þa
on þisse deie — — com færlice muchel swei of heofne
— 225. Adam þa wes wniende on þæses life mid geswince.
— II, 3. Men þe waren wuniende on eleþ of þæse þrie times
wisten gerne after ure lauerd ihesu cristes tocume alse
we doð.
— 31. On þe niht and on þe time. þe ure lafði seinte marie
kennede of holie lichame ure louverd ihesu crist. were
herdes wakiende bi side þe buregh and wittiende here
oref.
— 33. Al mankin was wuniende on muchele wowe. — —
PAST TENSE

forte þat ilke time: þat ure louerd ihesu crist hem þarof arerede.

O. E. H. II, 51. þat israelisshe folc was walkende toward ierusalem on swinche. and on drede. and on wanrede and þo wile was hersum godes hese.

131. for he nolde noht turnen ut of þe hege weie. ne of þe rihtie pádes. —. and was þer-one werchende. and farende. for to þat he [com] to ðe ende þat is eche lîf.

147. and on þis reuliche wei hie weren walkinde forte þat hie comen to þe lichamliche deade.

V. a V. 51, 5. Dies ilke hlauerd lesus Crist, he was her on ðese liue wuniende þrie and þrihtí wintre and an half mang senfulle mannenn,

149, 12. Hit seid in Vitas patrum ðat at sume sal waren ðe halí faderes to-gedere ðigadered, and waren spekinde bitwen hem on (h)williche wise me mihte rihtist and sikerest to gode cumen. Sum sade: —. Ða sade on of ða eldest — —

Remarks.

Ae. L. XXIII, 220. ‘wæs smeagende’ marks what he was actually engaged in at each of his visits to the town. Here the sense of incompleteness is especially prominent: no definite result is thought of. The periphrasis might also be considered to involve a slight shade of iteration: a comprehension of several single acts. Compare the simple form ‘æteowde’, which denotes a single act completed.

801. ‘wæs sittende’ = Modern English ‘had been sitting’.

XXIII B, 415. ‘standende wæs’ may perhaps be
correctly rendered by 'found myself standing'. The extended tense seems to indicate that the idea of result should be linked together with that of duration.

V. a V. 149, 12. This example might, in some way, be compared with Ae. L. XXIII, 220: 'waren spekinde' comprehends the utterances of each speaker ('Sum sade: — —', which appears more than once.) The discussion is represented as brought to a kind of close by 'Da sade — —'.

(ii) Undefined. When undefined, the periphrasis is in some cases very vague in meaning according to modern notions: that is to say, we should here sooner expect the indefinite tense nowadays: Chr. E. 1086; Ae. L. III, 566; Ae. L. VI, 131; Ae. L. XXV, 276; V. a V. 41, 17; L. o St. K. 64; G. a E. 2741. It may be observed that the verb in all these instances is 'wunigende'.

In other cases the participle partakes of an adjectival nature, as in Ae. L. XXIII, 702; Ae. L. XXIII B, 90; O. E. H. II, 119 and L. o St. K. 1353.

Apart from these two groups, however, one may certainly hold that the past periphrastic, even when it occurs without definitions, has, to a considerable extent, the same functions as in Modern English: it expresses that an action or a state of things was going on under special circumstances, these being indicated, more or less directly, in the context. The following may be considered as especially good examples: Ae. L. VII, 67 and 421, Ae. L. XXIII B, 187; Ae. L. XXV, 423; O. E. H. I, 41 and 93.

**Examples.**

Beow. 159. (ac sē) āglēca ēhtende wēs,  
dēorc deapel-scau duguþe ond āgoþe;
Beow. 3028. Swā sē secg hwata secggenende wæs laðra spella;
Chr. E. 994. and æt nyxtn naman heom hors. and ridon swa wide swa hi woldon. and unasecgendlice yfel wircende wæron.
— E. 1086. Eala reowlic and wependlic tid wæs þæs geares. þe swa manig ungelimp wæs fordþringende.
Ac. L. III, 566. AN æpele læce wæs wunigende on þære byrig. IOSEP gehaten.
— VI, 131. Se þegn wæs wunigende butan wifes neawiste.
— VII, 67. þæ cunnodan læcas hwī he licgende wære.
— 421. and cristen-dom wæs þeonde. and þa halgan wurdon gecydde.
— XVI, 161. fordān þe he mid soðfæstynsse ne sohte þone hælend.
— XXI, 444. — se tima wæs gesælīg
and wynsum on angel-cynne. þa ða eadgar cynincg
þone cristen-dom ge-fyrðrode. and fela munuclīfa arærde.
and his cynerice wæs wunigende on sibbe.
— XXIII, 702. sydān ðyllic feoh wæs farende on eordan.
— 823. and for þære micelan blysse synderlice he weop ofer ælcne. and his heorte wæs fægnigende.
— XXIII B, 32. Ðás wisan he ealle on him hæbbende wæs.
and he næfre fram þam smeagungum haligra gewīta his mód awenda
— 90. ac þæt án wæs swidōst fram heom eallum geefst.
þæt heora ælc wære on lichaman déad. and on gaste libbende;
— 141. æghwīc on his agenum ingeheide mid him sylfum hæbbende wæs. his agenes geswinecges gewītnysse hwæt he wyrscende wæs. and hwīlcræ gewīncga sæde sawende.
— 177. Ða wisan Zosimus georne behealdende wæs.
— 187. Hé witōllice hire wæs ehtende. and heo wæs fleonde;
— XXV, 276. and his feower gebroðra him fylston anrædlice
and ealle ða þe wæron wunigende mid his fæder.
— 423. — — and sloh ða hæðenan
od þæt hi onceneowon þæt se cena iudas
him wîd-feohhtende wæs.
— XXX, 8. Nacode he scrýdde. and swa ic soðlice secge. ealle
nyd-behæfnysse he wæs daelende. þam þæs behofodon.
Ae. L. XXX, 445. forþam ge wærón winnende on godan life.
and ge wærón for-pyldie[n]dæ nænig-fealde cos[t]hunga.
and swaþeah nærón ofer-swipde. Cumað nu on sybbe.
XXXI, 622. cwæð eac þæt nan man nære fram him
ofslagen
b utan þam anum þe him onfeóhtende wærón.
— 1283. — ac he ne aðlan na swaþeah.
mid seofon-nihte fæstene him fore toþíngi-
ende.
oð-þæt he beget þæs þe he biddende wæs.
XXXIII, 7. and heo þa dæghwa[m]lice hire speda þearle-
dum dælde. and gelomlice heo cyrcan sohte. and mid
halsungum god wæs biddende þæt — —
XXXIV, 76. þa cyne-helmas wærón wundorlice scinende
on rosan readynsse. and on lilian hwitnysse.
— XXXV, 84. Polemius þa sona sende his frynd
to þam mædene darian and micllum wæs
biddende
þæt — —
O. E. H. I, 41. Mihhal eode bi-foren — — and þa swawede mihhal
to sancte paul þa wrecche sunfulle þe þer were wuniende
— 93. Nu eft on þisse deie þurh þes hafie gastes to-cume : t
welen alle ispechen æðsein inumen. and isome : forðon þet
cristes apostas weren specende mid alle spechen.
— 95. forðon þet he wes dreihninde on þissere worlde mid
bilehwitnesse. and — —. for he ne remde ne of bitere
speche nes.
— 95. forðon þe he dude þet heo weren birnende on godes
wil[an]. and bodiende umbe godes riche.
II, 119. ec hie him segen on fures hewe al ich er seide.
and weren þerof wallinde on sodere luue godes and
mannen.
V. a V. 41, 17. ðu aust te folgin ðane riht[þ]wise and onfald
loþ, þe was wunizende on ðare woredl mid wiue and
mid children,
L. o St. K. 64. In þis ilke burh wes
wuniende a meiden
— 1353. 't berninde as he wes
of grome 't of teone,
bed bringen o brune
an ad amidden þe burh;
G. a E. 2741. Raguel letro dat riche man,
Was wuniende in madian,
He hadde seuenne dowtres bi-geten;
Remarks.

Beow. 3028. This occurs after a rather lengthy harangue, and it may be that the periphrasis can be ascribed to a certain idea of duration, viz. with a view to the time the warrior took to deliver his speech.

Ae. L. XXI, 444. The translation given in the edition used, 'and his kingdom continued in peace' exactly renders the meaning.

— XXIII, 702. The translation of the edition is 'since the like money was current on the earth'.
— XXIII B, 32. 'hæbbende wæs' is indirectly defined by 'næfre' in the next clause.
— XXX, 8. The context shows that 'wæs dælende' applies to several occasions: 'he used to — —', 'it was his habit to — —'.
— XXXI, 622. The translation given here: '— — no man had been slain by him save those only who were fighting against him' is not quite accurate. The context leads me to prefer: 'who had been fighting' (on a certain occasion or perhaps rather on several different occasions during his former life).
— XXXIII, 7. The periphrasis seems to imply a certain idea of intensity: note the complement 'mid halsungum', and the coordination with the iterative expressions 'dæghwamlice — — dælde' and 'gelomlice — — sohte'.
— XXXV, 84. Here also an intensive meaning seems to be intended: 'micclum'.

O. E. H. I, 93. There is an indirect definition in 'Nu eft on þisse dieie' in the first clause.
— 95. 'dreihninde'. The complement 'on þissere
'worlde' is here equivalent to an adverbial of time: 'during his whole life'.

O. E. H. I. 95. 'birnende', 'bodiende'. The first participle is here adjectival (= burning, zealous), and 'bodiende' may be considered to share in this idea in so far that it denotes a constant habit.

L. o St. K. 64. [H]ac in urbe Alexandrinorum erat quedam puella, — — Thus 'erat' is rendered by 'wes wuniende'.

— 1353. 'berninde as he wes — —'. The Latin has: *furiis agitatus* accenso in medio civitatis vehementissimo igne. jussit — —.

**Additional Remark.**

In *Aelfric's Lives of Saints* a few instances of the past periphrastic occur, where we should now use either the perfect or the pluperfect.

These compound tenses were not fully developed in Old English, nor in the earlier part of the Middle English period, and they did not occur at all in the periphrastic conjugation. Thus it may be explained that, in case the idea of duration or progression was attached to the meaning of an expression, or if the verb in question was felt to possess this character, the past periphrastic might occasionally be chosen.

We have already noted two instances; he arás þa of þære flora. and of þam wacan sæcce þe he lange on-uppan dreorig *wæs sittende*. and he þancode gode ælmihtigum. (Ae. L. XXIII, 801), and: cwæð eac þæt nan man nære fram him ofslagen buton þam anum þe him onfeohtende *wæron*. (Ae. L. XXXI, 622). In the first of these two instances, at least, the extended past corresponds exactly to a definite pluperfect in Modern English.
In the following examples, however, Modern English would sooner prefer an indefinite perfect or pluperfect.

III, 113. Ƿa stôd se hælend sylf. ƿet ƿam halgan weofode.
and mid his halgum handum. husel senode.
and ƿam bisceope ðæhte. ƿæs þe hé biddende wæs.

XII, 177. Eft ne mot nan mann ne ne sceal secgan on hine sylfne ƿæs ðe he wyrcone næs.

XII, 243. Nu ge habbað gehyrðæ þæt ge forhelen ne sceolan eowre agenne synne ne eac secgan na mare ðonne ge wyrconde wæron.

XXIII, 210. Da hi ðus sprecone wæron seofon ða gecoren halgan. þa sealdon hi heom fæstnunge betweonan. þæt hi ealle þis woldon healdan.

XXIII, 386. Dyllice halige word. and ungerime oðre ðe on halgum bocum synd awritene. þæt god ælmihtig mæng-tealdlice. ge ðurh his witegan. ge þurh hine sylfne. and be ðæra martyra æriste wæs sprecone.

The translations of these examples given in the edition - which I consider to be perfectly correct - are the following:

III, 113. ‘and instructed the bishop in that for which he had prayed’.

XII, 177. ‘nor ought he to say, respecting himself, such [things] as he hath not done’;

XII, 243. ‘neither say any more than ye have done’;

XXIII, 210. ‘When they had thus spoken, — —, they gave each other — —’

XXIII, 386. ‘Such [are the] holy words and numberless others which are written in holy books, which God Almighty, in many ways, both by His prophets and by Himself, and concerning the resurrection of the martyrs, had spoken’;

3. The Imperative and the Infinitive.

In these two forms of the periphrastic conjugation we note a strong durative force, occasionally further emphasized by such an adverb as ‘symble’ in Ae. L. XII, 268.
In most cases they express a habit or a frame of mind, the participle thus assuming a more or less adjectival meaning, although the context may clearly show that it retains its full verbal force, as in Ae. L. XXXIII, 314 and V. a V. 121, 9, where there are objects attached to ‘forgitende’ and ‘rewsende’ respectively.

(i) Examples of the Periphrastic Imperative.

Ae. L. XXXIII, 314. ne beo þu forgitende þinra efenþeowaa.
O. E. H. II, 5. Uigilate quia — — þat is beð wakiende. and forletëd gure synne.
V. a V. 75, 9. ‘Darhwhile de þu art mid þine wîderwine on þa weigé, bie him teiòinde þat þe he wilæ hauen idon, læste he þe nime — —
— 113, 4. Estote mi(sericordes), ‘Bieð mîldciende, al swo þeuer fader is on heuene!’

(ii) Examples of the Periphrastic Infinitive.

Ae. L. XII, 268. We sceolan beon þeonde symble on godnysse.
V. a V. 37, 6. þat he and his fader hine scolden luuizen and mid him wuniende b(i)en.
— 97, 17. Ic hit wat well þat godd ne mai bien wunizende on none saule þat unfrid is of sennes.
— 107, 15. ne he ne scall resten ne slapen to michel, ne to litel; ne he ne scal to michel bien spekende, ne to michel swi(g)ende;
— 121. 9. For ði us menegeð allre þinge arst ure lauerde of þesre eadi mihte, þat we scolden beon rewsende ure sennen,
— 23. Mann de wel wile bien riwsinde, ne rewe him nauht ane hise sennes.

Remark.

V. a V. 107, 15. This instance clearly shows how the indefinite form and the adjective converge towards the same idea of absolute duration in Modern English: the translation of the edition
is: ‘nor shall he speak too much, nor be too much silent’; one might here very well substitute an adjective for ‘spekende’ as well: ‘nor shall he be too talkative’.

B. Futurity.

Sometimes the periphrasis occurs in expressions which involve a futural meaning. In the majority of these instances, however, this is not its chief function, the idea of duration or progression being the predominant one. Thus one can by no means hold that the periphrasis serves as a ‘future-equivalent’, but only that it has an implied under-meaning of futurity.

1. The Present.

Ae. L. XXI, 295. — — and ic wille ðæt ge beran
eower leoth to me. and liegæð on eowum
and ic eow forgife ðæt ðæt ge gyrmende beoð.
XXIII B, 667. Eala hwæder heo hider cumende syo. and
me ne gyme.
O. E. H. I, 119. Da þe butan godes læge and godes isetnesse
libbeð : þa beoð butan gode efre wuniende.
V. a V. 103, 20. Ne biest ðu naht hier lange wunigende; forlat
dine sennen!

Remarks.

Ae. L. XXI, 295. Kühn (Die Syntax des Verbums in
Aelfric’s «Heiligenleben». Leipzig-Reudnitz 1889,
p. 40): ‘21,297 [this example] könntte man futu-
risch nennen. (cf. Koch II § 18).’ — ‘gyrmende
beoð’ implies a supposed actuality.
XXIII B, 667. ‘cumende syo’ denotes indefinite
futurity, an eventuality.
O. E. H. I, 119. I should prefer: ‘shall for ever be dwelling’ to the ‘are ever dwelling’ given in the edition.

V. a V. 103, 20. The futural meaning is obvious: ‘thou wilt not long be dwelling’ (translation of the edition).

2. The Past.

Beow. 1102. ‘deah hie hira beag-gyfan banan folgedon ‘deoden-lease, þa him swā gepēarfod wæs: ‘gyl þonne Frīsna hwylc frēcnon sprēce ‘ðæs morÞor-hettes myndgiend wāre,’ ‘þonne hit swēordes ecg syððan scolde

[— — — — — — — — — — — — —]

Ae. L. VI, 268. ac were þæt getēl. wunigende æfre.

O. E. H. I, 217. Gif non hine ne lufede. non to him ne cóme. ne delende nére of his eádinэ́sэ́e.

Remarks.

Beow. 1102. ‘myndgian’ means ‘remind of’ (Holthausen: erinnern an). Thus: ‘if then — — should remind of — —’. The idea of hypothetical futurity appears, in fact, to be the essential element of the periphrasis: a durative force seems scarcely admissible.

Ae. L. VI, 268. Rendered in the translation by: ‘— — but that the tale should always continue’.

C. The Inchoative.

In the Chronicle and in Aelfric's Lives of Saints we meet with several interesting instances where the periphrasis has, besides its primary and chief function, an additional inchoative meaning of a secondary character: the periphrasis is here inchoative-durative, and the latter element predominates so much that the former has not even got its own linguistical expression, but is involved in the durative. We have to do with a sort of anticipation, or 'logical hiatus', as Erdmann (p. 13) very aptly terms it: 'Instead of simply stating that such and such an action begins, by a liveliness of expression it anticipates time, and passing over the opening moment, represents the action as already in progress. This logical hiatus is more or less felt, according to the different degree of weight attached to the commencement of the action'. As regards the Chronicle it may be observed that the expression 'and feohtende wæron' is a set phrase, so to speak, for rendering the idea which in Modern English may be expressed by 'and then they started fighting'. Occasionally this scantiness of language, or as Erdmann has it, 'liveliness of expression', gives way to a more logical, but less vivid and pregnant style: and hi þær togedere fengon and swyðe heardlice — — feohtende wæron. C. 1066 (p. 198, 23). Here the two elements have got each its special expression in the language.

Examples.

Chr. A. 835. Her com micel-sciphere on West Walas, and hie to anum gecierdon, and wiþ Ecgbryht West Sexna cyning winnende wæron; þa he þæt hierde, and mid fierde ferde, and him wiþ feahþ æt Hengest dune, — —
[ E: winnende. MS. wuniende; and so D. ]
Chr. A. 867. and hie late on geare to þam gecirdon þæt hie wiþ þone here winnende wærun, and hie þeah micle fierd gegadrodon, and þone here sohton æt Eoforwic ceastre, and on þa ceastre bæcon, and hie sume inne warden, and þær was ungemetic wæl geslagen — —
— A. 878. [p. 76, 2]. and þæs on Eastan worhte Aelfred cyning lytle werede geweorc æt Aelþelinga eigge, and of þam geweorce was winnende wiþ þone here,
— E. 994. Her on þisum geare com Anlaf and Swegen to Lundenbyrig — — and hi da on da burh festlice feohþende wæron. and eac hi mid fyre ontendan woldon. ac hi þar gefeordon maran hearm and yfel þonne hi æfre wendon. [ F: and festlice on þa burh fihhton. and hi — — ]
— E. 1001. Her com se here to Exan muðan. and upp da eodan to ðere byrig. and þær festlice feohþende wæron. ac him man swyðe festlice wiðstod. and heardlice. Da gewendon hi — —
Ae. L. XXIII, 775. and þa þa hí þæt gewrit ræddon. hi ealle wundrigende wæron. and god ælmihtigne ånon möde wuldredon.
— XXIII B, 231. Ðas word witodlice gebrohton on Zosime micelne ege. and fyrtu. and he wæs byfigende; And hé wæs geonggoten mid þæs swates dropum; Da ongan hé sworettan — —
— 669. and biterlice weop. and his eagen up to þam heofone hæbbende. and eadmodlice god wæs biddende þus cwæðende.
— XXV, 490. Hvæt ða færlice comon fif englas of heofonum.
ridinge on horsum mid gyldenum geraedum. and tweægen þæra engla on twa healfu iudan feohþende wæron. and hine eac bewerodon.
— XXXI, 220. Þa æfter twam tidum astyrode se deada eallum limum. and lociende wæs.
— 1123. Þa wæs se ele wexende ofer ealne þone weg. swa þæt he ofer-fleow. — —
— 1202. and þa deofol-seocan sona mid swidlicre. grymetunge forhtigende wæron. — —
Remarks.

Chr. A. 878. Here the hiatus is very little felt: it is even possible that no inchoative idea is intended.

Ae. L. XXV, 490. The context shows clearly that the expression ought to be rendered by ‘began to fight’ — or, better, ‘started fighting’ — rather than by ‘were fighting’, which is the translation of the edition.

— XXXI, 1202. ‘sona’ shows that the inchoative element is more stressed than the durative.

Additional Remark.

In Aelfric’s Lives of Saints we have some curious cases, which seem to have something in common with the inchoative use of the periphrasis, in so far that they imply an anticipation, at least the last two of them. It may be that Latin influence has been at work here, to judge from an analogous instance in the Old English Version of Bede’s Ecclesiastical History of the English People, quoted by Püttmann (p. 5): pa somninga se min latteow gestod and butan eldenne wæs eft his gong cerrende 430, 25 (repente ductor substitit; nec mora, gressum torquens *208, 16).

XXXI, 250. — — and he sona ge-edcucode.
and mid geornfulre elnunge up arisende wæs.

XXIII B, 639. and eft-cyренде wæs herigende, and blætsigende ùrne drihten hælendne crist;
— 641. And he wæs eft-cyренде þurh þone ylcan siðfat ðæs westenes þe hé ær þyder becom.
D. Survey.

Sweet remarks (§ 2208) that ‘The analogy of the adjective construction’ would make us expect to find the periphrastic forms used mainly to express rest, and passive rather than active phenomena. But, on the contrary, they are especially favoured by verbs of motion and fighting — \textit{wæs winnende, wæron feohtende} — either with or without the idea of continuity.

Here Sweet no doubt has had in mind the frequent occurrence of ‘feohtende’ in the \textit{Chronicle}, but his remark does not hold good for the great bulk of Anglo-Saxon literature: verbs expressing rest and other passive phenomena are very freely employed in the periphrastic conjugation. Püttman has found that verbs of saying are very often met with: this is true as regards the \textit{Blickling Homilies}, for instance, and other works of the same kind, especially if translated from the Latin. Püttmann — speaking about cases where the periphrasis seems to be devoid of any progressive force — is inclined to attribute, even to these verbs, at least in many cases, a slight shade of the sense of duration, in others he takes into account the possibility of Latin influence: ‘Zu den ebenfalls häufig mit der bedeutung eines historischen tempus vorkommenden verben des sagens ist zu bemerken, dass es sich in vielen fällen vielleicht doch um eine leise schattierung des begriffes der dauer handeln könnte, in anderen vielleicht lateinischer einfluss anzunehmen ist’ (p. 48). He may be right in both

\footnote{In § 2204 he ventures the following conjecture: ‘They were no doubt originally formed on the analogy of the combination of the verb ‘be’ with adjectives, so that such a paraphrase as \textit{hie wæron blissiende} ‘they were rejoicing’ was felt to be intermediate between \textit{hie blissodon} ‘they rejoiced’ and \textit{hie wæron bliðe} ‘they were glad’.'}
suggestions, especially, it seems to me, as regards the Latin influence. As to the verbs which most often take the periphrasis, it should be kept in mind that this depends, to a great degree, on the nature of the texts: this is especially clear in the case of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle; one can safely say, however, that verbs that are of a durative or progressive character — such as verbs of rest, motion and also mental states or proceedings — are in the majority.

The chief functions of the periphrasis during these periods are to mark that an action or a state of things is going on at a certain point of time, actuality, or else for a certain length of time, qualified duration. It is hardly possible to decide in every case whether actuality or limited duration is the function of an extended tense: even where there are definitions one may find examples lying on the borderland between the two categories. On the whole, however, one can say that during these periods the latter is somewhat more frequently represented than the former.

The meaning of the periphrasis is most clearly brought out when it is defined by adverbs, adverbial expressions generally, or by another clause, which directly mark the point or the length of time. Here we have a type which may be worth some special attention; I mean where the complement consists of adverbs of perpetuity, such as ‘aefre’, ‘symble’. If the verb in question is also durative, then, of course, the whole expression involves the idea of perpetual duration: Godd is haure fastinde (V. a V. 137, 17), and aefre wæs his uneadnys wexende. (Ae. L. XXIII, 621);

1 Generally speaking, then, it implies progression or duration. If this idea is limited to a special moment, and thus the meaning of incompleteness prevails over that of duration properly taken, then it is that the periphrasis is used to form the actual tenses, describing the actual goings-on, a situation or the like.
but if the verb is a ‘point-verb’ we get a meaning of recurrence: *Symble he bid gyfende* (Ae. L. 1, 45). Of course, according as the same verb may be felt as more or less durative, an expression may be interpreted as either durative or iterative, as in: and æfre he him wæs onsittende þæt hine sum man gecneowe (Ae. L. XXIII, 493). Here we may either regard ‘wæs onsittende’ as applying to a series of several different occasions, or else as a mental state of a certain constancy.

But the meaning may also lie, more or less perceptibly, in the context only, especially for the past tense, where a certain point or length of time is, in most cases, to be understood. Not infrequently, however — and this mostly as regards the present tense, which always tends to become more neutral in meaning, where the idea of *actuality* is not quite clear — the periphrasis is either very vague, hardly differentiated in function from the indefinite form — these cases are, however, not so very many — or else, where the idea of duration is distinctly prominent, tending towards the meaning of *absolute duration*, the participle assuming a nearly adjectival character, which is the case in several instances. As regards the former group, Püttmann holds that, in a great number of instances, the periphrasis has the same meaning as the simple forms: ‘Schliesslich bezeichnet die umschreibung in einer grossen anzahl fälle das historische tempus, d. h. sie weicht in ihrer bedeutung nicht von derjenigen der formen der einfachen zeiten ab.’ (p. 48). Here, however, it must be borne in mind that this is mostly the case in works translated from the Latin — and this is more emphasized by Pessels¹ than

¹ Pessels has (p. 82) the following remark: 'The influence of the Latin has tended to greatly increase the employment of the periphrasis, but it has, at the same time, greatly obscured the progressive force.'
by Püttmann — such as *Bede*, and also the *Blickling Homilies*, which latter Püttmann incorrectly classes among the more original works (‘selbständigere prosa’) as well as Pessels, who groups it with ‘the original works’. In the *Old English Homilies*, for instance, Püttmann ascribes only 6 instances to this category, two of which are quite out of place, as they have not the present, but the perfect, participle. These are I, 81: gode men weren þurh þet ho weren *itende* of þan halie gast, and 95: Alswa scal þe larðeú don þe ðet bid mid þen halia gast *itend*.

Together with the primary idea of the periphrasis we note, sometimes, a more or less marked under-meaning, so that we may be justified in ascribing to it an additional character of futurity or ingressioin.

We get the futural meaning especially when the present tense is defined by adverbs denoting time-length as ‘lange’, ‘aefre’ — thus we find that the ‘aefre-type’ falls into three sub-types, namely one durative, one iterative and one futural-durative; but in other cases also this meaning may be, more or less distinctly, felt.

The inchoative or ingressive meaning is very seldom predominant: otherwise it is only secondary, the durative idea being the primary and prevalent one.

To this general idea of duration or progression one might add that, at least in cases where *qualified duration* is implied, as when the periphrasis is defined by ‘aefre’, ‘symble’ etc. or followed by a result-clause, but also in many others, even those implying *actuality*, the periphrasis gives a stronger inner stress to the verb than the indefinite forms, so much so that one may say that the definite tenses have, in not a few cases, a pronounced intensive character: they are more pregnant as opposed to the more neutral simple forms.
II. LATE MIDDLE ENGLISH.

A. Midland and Southern Dialects.

Occurrence. In texts belonging to these dialects the periphrasis is, up to the 15th century, sparingly used.

*Havelok the Dane* (3000 short lines) has only one case on record; and so too has *Joseph of Arimathie*, which is a rather short text. *Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight*, and the *Early English Alliterative Poems*, although both of them fairly long texts, exhibit likewise one each. From an investigation of *Piers the Plowman*, comprising *Prologus* and *Passus* I—XII (about 200 pages), I have gathered 4 instances. The extended tenses seem to be totally absent from *The English Works of Wyclif*: I have gone through about \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the volume, which counts 450 pages, without being able to hunt out a single specimen. This, however, is not at all surprising if we take into consideration the nature of the work: a collection of sermons or tracts in a philosophical-religious vein, altogether lacking the vividness of narration. *Sir Ferumbras* has contributed about half a dozen instances, which must be regarded as a comparatively scanty number, considering the epic character and the not inconsiderable size of the work. Also Chaucer must be pronounced to make a rather limited use of the construction: *The Canterbury Tales* and the *Troilus and Criseyde*
together hold only some 30 cases. The same remark may be applied to Gower (in the prologue and the first two books of his Confessio Amantis I have only found half a dozen instances) and also to Lydgate, to judge from the Temple of Glas with two or three: this last text, however, is rather short.

Towards the latter part of the 15th century the periphrasis seems to have got more freely used: George Ashby's: A Prisoner's Reflections, Active Policy of a Prince, Dicta & opiniones diversorum philosophorum contain together 16 examples. In the Generydes they amount to about a dozen. Caxton's translations show a very uneven occurrence: while his Blanchardyn and Eglantine abounds in instances of the periphrastic tenses, they are very seldom met with in the Godeffroy of Bolyone.

1. The Present Tense.

(i) Defined. In some cases the tense is accompanied by time-distinctions, usually adverbs, either implying point of time ('now'), as in Gaw. 2214; Fer. 766 and Caxt. Bl. 189, 16, or else length of time: Ashby, Pr. R. 218 ('euer-more'), P. Pr. 870 ('euer').

In one or two cases the definition takes the form of a clause, as in Ch. Troil. IV, 31, where actuality is the function of the periphrasis, and in Ashby, Pr. R. 220, where 'whyle' might as well suggest a durative meaning.

Examples.

Gaw. 2214. For now is gode Gawyn goande rygt here,
Fer. 766. I gyldme her to Charlis kyng: þe best knygþ y-core
þat is owar now lyuyng: òfer euere was her
be-fore.

Ch. Troil. IV, 31. Bifel that, whan that Phebus shyning is
Up-on the brest of Hercules Lyoun,
That Ector, — —

Lydg. T. o. Gl. 3 b, 1. [p. 14]. I pleyne also vp-on Jelusye,
The vile serpent, the snake tortyvous,
That is so crabbit & frounynge of his ye,
And euere grochynge & suspecyous,

— 3 c, 1. [p. 14]. Thus is he fryed in his owene gres,
To-rent & torn with his owene rage,
And euere froward & frounynge causeles,

Ashby, Pr. R. 218. Thynke that worldes welth and felycyte
Ys nat euermore in oone abydyng,

— 220. But transitory ys prosperyte,
And no certeynte whyle thow art lyuyng.

— P. Pr. 870. Put no ful truste in the Comonalte,
Thai be euer wauering in variance,

Caxt. Bl. 129, 12. The sayd kynge Alymodes is alwaye kepynge
his siege before her cyte of Tourmaday, & wasteth &
distroyeth al the contrey about,

— 189, 16. this daye I doo praye you & commaunde / that
ouer all the best knyghtes that are now reynyng in the
wyde worlde / ye woil socoure the conforte of my joye,

Remarks.

Ch. Troil. IV, 31. ‘Bifel that — —,’ in the past, but
‘shyning is — —’. The ‘whan’-clause marks
the time of day.

Ashby, Pr. R. 218. With a suggestion of futurity:
‘shall not always be abiding’.

Caxt. Bl. 129, 12. Denotes both protracted duration
and actuality; we may also note the occurrence
of the simple forms ‘wasteth & distroyeth’, which
seem to single out something of the different
proceedings contained in the comprehensive ‘ke-
pyng hee siege’, or they may be regarded more
as a supplement to this expression, dispensing
with the periphrasis mostly in order to avoid
clumsiness of language.
(ii) **Undefined.** Somewhat more frequently the tense occurs without special complements. It then expresses the present actual, ‘now’ being understood, as in Piers Pl. Pass. VIII, 18; Fer. 2735; Ch. C. T. Cl. T. 744; C. V, Prol. 67 and Gow. C. Am. II, 1804.

In Caxt. Bl. 215, 17 the periphrasis does not so much emphasize an actual moment: its chief function is rather to denote progression by itself, the idea of time, whether as a point or a length, being less prominent and only of a secondary importance.

This is decidedly the case in the following examples, where the inherent progressive or durative nature of the verbs has called the periphrasis into use: Gow. C. Am. II, 2151; Rom. R. 1563; Ashby, P. Pr. 751.

Sometimes the periphrastic present seems rather vague in meaning: Ashby, D & o 739 and Caxt. Bl. 112, 24 and 192, 3.

In one case the tense has a futural meaning: Piers Pl. Prol. 66.

**Examples.**

Piers Pl. Prol. 66. But holychirche and hij. holde better togideres, The moste my[s]chief on molde. is mountyng wel faste.

— Pass. VIII, 18. «Amonges vs», quod þe Menours. «þat man is dwellynge», And euere hath, as I hope. and euere shal here-after».

Fer. 2735. þan cam Clarioun þe sturne kyng : & loude hem gan ascrye:

«Falleþ on hem þai buþ fleoynge : we schulleþ hem haue an hye».

Ch. C. T. Cl. T. 744. My peple me constreyneth for to take Another wyf, and cryen day by day;

— —

And treweliche thus muche I wol yow seye, My newe wyf is coming by the weye.
Ch. C. T. C. Y. Prol. 67. I seye, my lord can swich subtilitée —

That al this ground on which we been ryding,
Til that we come to Canterbury toun,
He coude al clene turne it up-so-doun,
And pave it al of silver and of gold'.

Gow. C. Am. I, 1379. That for I se no sped comende,
Ayein fortune compleignende
I am, as who seith, everemo:

Il, 1804. — — And thus forth he geth
Conforted of this evidence,
With the Romeins in his defence
Ayein the Greks that ben comende.

2151: And many a fraude of fals conseil
Ther ben hangende upon his Seil:
Lydg. T. o Gl. 3 b, 1. [p. 14]. I pleyne also vp-on lelusye,
The vile serpent, the snake fartyvous,
That is so crabbit & frounynge of his ye,
Rom. R. 1563. Abouten it is gras springing,
For moiste so thikke and wel lyking,
Ashby, P. Pr. 751. Looke hat your maters be with god stand-
yng;

D & o. 739. If ye be to any man licencyng
To set his fote vpon youres areryng,
He wol after set his fote vppon your nekke.
Caxt. Bl. 112, 24. 'we holden on the crysten feyth, & are byleu-
yng in lhesu cryste'

— 192, 3. as ye shall vnderstond by the historye, whiche is folowyng
— 215, 17. as phisicke is naught worth where the pacient is passing;

Remarks.

Rom. R. 1563. 'Tout entour point l'erbe menue,
Qui vient por l'iaue espesse et drue'.
The periphrasis in the English version is due to the progressive character of the verb. In fact, the simple form would have been quite inap-

Ashby, D & o. 739. 'licencyng'. In the List of Words
PAST TENSE

(by Furnivall) given as an adjective, meaning 'giving leave'. It is difficult to judge of the periphrasis in this instance, as indeed in several others from Ashby. This author seems to have a great predilection for the extended tenses: whether from a metrical point of view or not, I do not feel called upon to discuss.

Caxt. Bl. 112, 24. Here the periphrasis might be employed to convey a meaning of duration or intensity, suggesting a constancy of mind, which could not have been brought about by the simple form, but it may also be inferred that 'are byleuyng' is chosen by way of contrast with the simple form 'holden', to avoid monotony.

— 192, 3. I may be conjectured that 'is folowyng' is due to a certain liveliness of conception, if not to the progressive nature of the verb only.

2. The Past Tense.

(i) Defined. The tense is, in most cases, found with definitions. These consist, in about half the number of instances, of adverbs or adverbials, implying either point or length of time, or, occasionally, recurrence: Hav. 945 ('ay'), A. P. Cl. 293 ('penne'), Ch. C. T. Prol. 89 ('al the day'), M. T. 1 ('whylom'), Sh. T. 24 ('ever in oon'), Troil. V, 22 ('ever-more'), Gow. C. Am. II, 1645 ('ofte'), Gen. 2544 ('allway'), 3739 ('still'), Caxt. Bl. 85, 4 ('atte this owre'), 96, 29 ('yet'), 127, 11 ('the same tyme'), God. 21, 17 ('thenne yet').

In about as many cases, the complement consists of a clause, this especially towards the end of the period; here, for the first time, we note the occurrence of the
periphrasis in clauses beginning with 'as', so characteristic of Modern English: Fer. 3611; Ch. C. T. Sq. T. 401; P. Prol. 10; Tröil. II, 555; Gen. 5069 and 5662; Caxt. Bl. 101, 17 and 101, 35; further 136, 6; 141, 7; 161, 31. Here the periphrastic past denotes *actuality*, as also in the other cases, where the definition is a clause: Rom. R. 1715; Gen. 3746; Caxt. God. 51, 32.

Occasionally both adverbials and clause are to be found, as in Caxt. Bl. 145, 2.

**Examples.**

Hav. 945. Of alle men was he mest meke,

*Lauhwinde* ay, and blipe of speke;

A. P. Cl. 293. *Þenne in worlde watz a wyze wonyande* on lyue,

Ful redy & ful ryghtwys, & rewled hym fayre;

Piers Pl. Pass. XI, 403. «*Haddestow suffred*, he seyde. «*slepyng þo þow were,*

þow sholdest haue knowen þat clergy can.

and conceieued more þorugh resoun;

Fer. 2140. *þus wyle was he on halle sittynge* with is puple atte mete,

þan com þer an heþene kyng : rydynge atte geþe;

— 3611. As he was *prykyng* ouer an hul A wykked cas þer him byful

ys sted wax al ateynte:

Ch. C. T. Prol. 89. Embrouded was he, as it were a mede

Al ful of fresshe floures, whyle and rede.

_Singinge_ he was, or _floytinge_, al the day;

— Kn. T. 507. And solitarie he was, and ever allone,

_And wailling_ al the night, making his mone.

— 1840. For he was yet in memorie and alyve,

And alway _crying_ after Emelye.

— M. T. I. WHYLOM ther was *dwellinge* at Oxenford

A riche gnof, that gestes heeld to bord,

And of his craft he was a Carpenter.

With him ther was dwellinge a povere scoler,

— Sh. T. 24. Amonges alle his gestes, grete and smale,

Ther was a monk, a fair man and a bold,
I trowe of thrity winter he was old,
That ever in oon was drawing to that place.

Ch. C. T. Sq. T. 401. Amidde a tree fordrye, as whyt as chalk,
As Canacee was pleying in hir walk,
Ther sat a faucon over hir heed ful hye,
That with a pitous voys so gan to crye

— P. Prol. 10. Ther-with the mones exaltacioun,
I mene Libra, alwey gan ascende,
As we were entringe at a thropes ende;

— Troil. II, 555. It fel that I com roming al alone
Into his chaumbre, — —
— as I was cominge,
Al sodeynly he lefte his compleyninge.

— V, 22. This Troilus, with-outen reed or lore,
As man that hath his loyes eek forlohe,
Was waytinge on his lady ever-more

Gow. C. Am. Prol. 552. For evere whil thei deden wel,
Fortune was hem debonaire,
And when thei deden the contraire,
Fortune was contrariende.

— Il, 1477. And as fortune wolde tho,
He was duellende at on of tho.

— 1645. Demetrius, which ofte aboute
Ridende was, stod that time oute,

Rom. R. 1715. The God of Love, with bowe bent,
That al day set hadde his talent
To pursuen and to spyen me,
Was standing by a fige-tree.
And when he sawe how that I
— —
He took an arowe ful sharply whet,

Gen. 1674. Whille he was stille in prisone a bideng,
his thought was all on Clarionas;

— 2544. ffor thei were allway fightyng still opeace
Ayenst Galad the kyng of Asirye;

— 3739. So still opeace he was ther abideng,

— 3746. Vpon a tyme the Sowdon was alone,
In a garden was walkyng to and fro,
Ser luell Was ware therof anon,

— 5069. And as thei were remeyng fro the place,
ffull sustely Sygrem callid lucydas,

— 5662. And as sche was comyng inward to his tent,
Of hir he was full gladde in his entente,
And seid, 'mayde Mirabell, benedicite;
Caxt. Bl. 84, 30. Euyn atte the same oure that the two vasselles be foughte / eche other / the proude mayden in amours was lenyng at a wyndow, thorough whyche she sawe pleynti the bataylle

85, 4. The daughter of Alymodes the kynge was atte this owre settyng before her pauillyon for to beholde pe batayll of pe two champions.

87, 20. Whan blanchardyn sawe the yong damoysell that was there syttyng / he bowed hym self dounward vpon his hors necke, and toke the mayden by the myddes of her body,

96, 29. And that they sholde delyuere hym in his hande / And telle hym that it was he that had slayne Rubyon, his brother, before Tourmaday, where his fader kynge Alymodes was yet kepyng the syege,

101, 17. Ryght thus as the kyng was talkyng so wyth blanchardyn / cam there a knyghte armed of al peces,

101, 35. and alredy thou mayste see by me that they be not fer from hens, for as I was commyng towarde the / I dyde fynde thyn enmyes byfore me,

127, 11. And in especyall she was sore discomfited at her herte for the loue of her frende blanchardyn, that was the same tyme wyth his felawe sadoyne sayllyng vpon the see in grete gladnesse for the wynde & the see that were peasible.

136, 6. As she was thus talkyng wyth her maysters, and that the vessayls beganne to com nyghe, and made redy all thynges to take lande, a south wynd rose vp sodanly,

141, 2. It happed that one a day blanchardyn, Sadoyne, and his wyff the fayer Beatrix, were sittynge at the bord takynge their recreacyon / The same tyme herde blanchardyn a voyce of a man that full pyteuosly lamented hym self;

152, 19. and noo playsure she coude taken in no thynge / but was euer more sorowyng at the herte of her /

161, 31. & as he was musyng vpon pe werke, lokyng to & fro vpon the see, he perceyued a right myghty nauuey,

193, 26. Whan sadoyne, that was the same tyme lokyng out at a wyndowe — — sawe the two oostes — — he gaf hymselfe gret meruayl,
Caxt. God. 21, 17. a parte of the muraylles whiche were thenne yet apperyng
— 51, 32. pEter was goyng with the grete companye whan a messager cam to hym rydyng,

Remarks.

Ch. C. T. Sh. T. 24. The expression implies a habit. Gow. C. Am. II, 1477. 'tho' in the first clause is, logically, a definition to 'was duellende'. The emperor had many houses, between which he spent his time.
— 1645. 'ofte — — Ridende was' comprehends a series of actualities.
Caxt. Bl. 84, 30. This example occurs, with slight alterations, several times in this work: it is a sort of set pattern.

(ii) Undefined. When no time-defining complements are attached to the periphrasis, the tense has none the less, in most cases, a very well marked meaning, viz., of actuality; this is clearly seen, for instance, in Fer. 4657; Ch. C. T. Kn. T. 560; Gow. C. Am. II, 1497; Caxt. Bl. 45, 31, where the periphrastic past, in indirect narration, corresponds to a present actual in the direct speech, and further in 118, 21 and 119, 7; etc.

Sometimes, however, though not very often, this meaning is either very slightly perceptible or hardly admissible. In such cases one might rather speak of a certain idea of duration, as in Gen. 1156 and Caxt. Bl. 62, 3; and also in the following examples, where the participle occasionally assumes an adjectival meaning: Caxt. Bl. 56, 4; 150, 20 and 152, 28.
Examples.

Jos. 18. Feole flowen for fert. out of heore cupple
in-to Augrippus lond. was heroudes eir,
there monye lenginde weore. forlet of heore one.

Fer. 4657. Ys wyf was lyggynge on chylbedde For two
children þat sche þo hedde
Wyp-inne þer-on a kaeue.

Ch. C. T. Kn. T. 560. He fil in office with a chamberleyn,
The which that dwelling was with Emelye.
— 1097. The statue of Venus, glorious for to see,
Was naked fleting in the large see,
— M. T. 4. With him ther was dwelling a povre scoler,
— Troil. III, 687. So whan that she was in the closet leyd,
And alle hir wommen forth by ordenaunce
A-bedde weren, ther as I have seyd,
There was no more to skippen nor to traunce,
But boden go to bedde, with mischaunce,
If any wight was steringe any-where,
And late hem slepe that a-bedde were.

Gow. C. Am. I, 2346. The body, which was ded ligende,
For pure pite that thei have
Under the grene thei begrave.
— II. 1497. On horse ridden him ayein;
Till it befell, upon a plein
Thei sihen wher he was comende.

Gen. 1156. And ther he was purposing to Abyde,
— 4775. And ser Amelok Anon he ganne hym dresse,
Whiche with a knyght was playeng At
tcheese.

Caxt. Bl. 45, 31. The man answered hym, that wyth grete payne
he sholde be lodged / And that the men of armes of the
proude pucelle in amours were comyng in so grete nombre — —
— 56, 4. And many penoncelles, baners, and standardes that
the wynde shok here and there, wherof the golde & the
azure vas glysteryng tyl vnto her eyen / bycause of the
bryght beines of the sonne that spred were vpon them.
— 62, 3. Blanchardin, whiche was sore desyryng for to
proue hym self and shewe his strengthe and vertue — —
dyde putte hym self in the fore front,
— 118, 21. And another of the capitayns had the charge
of the foure thousand archers, fote men / whiche yssued oute at a posterne that was nyghe the see, & lepte anon in to the medowe where the sayd bestes were fedyng

Caxt. Bl. 119, 7. The fotemen thene entred wythin the close medowe, where the bestes were pasturyng,

— 139, 24. ther were tenn thousand Cassydonyens — — that folowed hym, and yssued out of the towne wyth daryus, that was rydyng before hem all vpon a right myghty-courser /

— 143, 31. But by the comaundement of Blanchardyn the preeste of the crysten men that were dwellynge there assembled anone, and made redy many tubbys

— 150, 20. the nauey was appareled & redy made, stored & garnysched wyth good men of werre, & wyth artylarye / as was perteynyng to suche a thynge,

— 152, 28. and as she dyde cast always her syght toward the see, she trowed to haue seen a grete nombre of shippes that were appyeryng vpon the water / and cam sayllynge

— 161, 18. kynge Alymodes, that was in grete affraye to knowe the cause and occasion wherfore they of the cyte were makynge suche a gladnesse, assembled his barons

— God. 91, 12. And sayde they wold drawe them to ward Nycene / ffor to abyde there the other Barons that were comynge on the waye /

Remarks.

Gen. 1156. The periphrasis seems to give the impression of a set purpose, so 'to speak, which the simple form would perhaps have failed to suggest.

Caxt. Bl. 62, 3. 'desyryng'; with an under-meaning of intensity, further enforced by 'sore'.

3. The Imperative and the Infinitive.

These forms are strongly durative, very often implying a frame of mind or a habit.
(i) Example of the Periphrastic Imperative.

Ashby, D & o. 715. In your counsail be quick and ay wakyng.

(ii) Examples of the Periphrastic Infinitive.

Ch. Troil. III, 1138. But for the love of god sin ye be brought
In thus good plyt, lat now non hevy thought
Ben hanginge in the hertes of yow tweye:

Ashby, P. Pr. 285. Do youre selfe and all shall be obeying,
Truste to no man is execucion,
—  D & o. 594. A kyng sholde be fyrst kepynge his lawe;
Al other must doo the same for his awe.
— 689. Showying theim semblance of love euery day,
Corogeng theim to be to you lovying.
— 967. On erthe ther is no thing so vnsemyng
As a kynge to be in predacioi,
Or by compulsion to be taking,
— 1097. And who that to [un]nedy wolbe graunting,
Is not accepted as for man witty,

Remark.

Ch. Troil. Ill, 1138. The periphrasis is, I take it,
quite indispensable here: the simple form would altogether fail to convey the proper meaning.

Additional Remark.

The participle sometimes approaches in meaning to an adjective. In many cases it is nearly impossible to draw any line of distinction between the verbal and the adjectival character.

The latter is commonly to be inferred where the participle occurs in juxtaposition with a real adjective, or when the periphrasis is defined by adverbs of perpetuity, namely, in expressions involving the idea of a frame of mind or a habit, and also in cases where the finite verb
is not expressed. The following is a very illustrative example:

Lydg. T. o. Gl. 3 b, 1. [p. 14]. I pleyne also vp-on Jelusye, The vile serpent, the snake tortyvous, That is so crabbit & frounynge of his ye, And euere grochynge & suspecyous,

The French participles in -aunt have quite lost their verbal force and are to be looked upon as pure adjectives:

Caxt. Bl. 28, 12. the yron of my spere whiche is full sore trenchaunt
— 170, 10. he was so dolaunt, & so replenyshed wyth sorow

Also the 'wel syttynge' of the following example, which is a direct translation of the French 'bien séant':

Caxt. Bl. 17, 14. a ryght goode & riche swerde, that longed vnto the kynge his fadre, whiche afterward was to hym wel syttynge,

and, I suppose, the 'wel doand' in Rom. R. 2707:

They shal hir telle how they thee fand
Curteis and wys, and wel doand.

B. Northern Dialects.

Occurrence. In comparison with the Midland and Southern texts the Scottish works exhibit, with one or two exceptions, a fairly considerable frequency, although rather small as compared to modern usage.

In Barbour's Bruce we have not a few examples: thus in the five first books there are to be found not less than a score, and the same number is afforded by books I—V of the Wallace. Also in the works of Lyndesay and in the Complaynt of Scotlande the periphrasis has a comparatively frequent occurrence.
In the *Kingis Quair* and in Dunbar's poems, on the other hand, we note a more scanty use of it: in the former, which is, to be sure, only a small text (1400 short lines), only 4 instances are on record, and Dunbar's poems (about 280 pages) have not furnished more than 12 instances.

On the whole, however, one may safely say that the extended tenses were more in vogue in Scotland than in England. Also, in 'Lowland Scotch', they seem to have held their ground fairly well, as far as frequency goes, up to the present time: Krüger remarks (Schwierigk. des Engl. II, p. 172): 'In schottischen Romanen finde ich einen auffallend starken derartigen Gebrauch der Form, z. B. I am hearing you are a poor man. There's more than one eligible girl in Shawbridge I could name, but it is not for me to be choosing for him. I will be hearing of you? (The Mischief-Maker, by Leslie Keith, Times Weekly Ed. Jan.—April 1898)'.

Alexander Bain, (Higher Engl. Gr. p. 187 a. f.), has some remarks to the same effect: «When, therefore, without wishing to signify continuance or occupation, we employ a progressive tense, we violate the best English usage. The expressions, 'The master is calling you', 'he is speaking to you', 'were you ringing?' 'I was supposing', 'he is not intending' are Scotticisms for 'the master calls', 'he speaks to you', — ». 

Murray, questioning the possibility of Celtic influence on the Scottish dialects, ventures the following suggestion, (The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland, p. 54): 'Of grammatical changes, either in inflection or syntax, which can be attributed to Celtic influence, there are per-

1 Speaking about certain verbs, which by their nature avoid the periphrasis, such as: like, love, be fond of, hate, please, dislike, scorn, etc. (p. 171.)
haps no traces in Scottish literature. Even in the modern dialects these are rare, though they are probably to be seen in the fondness for periphrastic verbal forms, such as «Ye'll be gaan,' «I'm sayan,' for You will go, I say; and a certain indirectness in the matter of tense, thus, «What was ye wantan?' «I was wantan' to see you just for a minute,» etc., for «What do you want?» «I want to see you.»'

1. The Present Tense.

(i) Defined. It expresses either _actuality_, enforced by the adverb 'now', as in Ly. Mon. 5354, and others, all from the same author, or else, where the definition is an adverb of _perpetuity_, it has this function, as in K. Qu. 173 ('ay') and Du. Man, sen thy lyfe etc. 1 ('evir').

In one instance we have a futural meaning, namely in Ly. Mon. 5502, where the adverbial 'in those dayis' applies to the future.

Examples.

K. Qu. 173. From day to day so sore here artow drest,
   That with thy flesche ay _walking_ art in trouble,
   And sleping eke;

Du. Man, sen thy lyfe is ay in weir,
   And deid is evir _drawand_ neir,
   [Man, sen thy lyfe etc. 1.].

Ly. Mon. 5354. Mony _prelatis ar now ryngand_,
   The quhilkis no more dois vnderstand;
   — 5502. Quho _that bene leuand_, in those dayis,
   May tell of terrabyll affrayis:
   — 5890. Father, _quod I_, declare to me
   Quhare _sall our Prelatis ordorit be_,
   Quhilk _now bene in the warld leuand_;
Ly. Pap. 174. Now cumyng ar, said scho, the faitall houris; Off bitter deth now mon I thole the schouris.

— 353. So, ȝe, that now bene lansyng vpe the ledder, Tak tent in tyme, fassinynge ȝour fingaris faste.

Remark.

Ly. Mon. 5502. ‘bene leuand’ might be rendered by: ‘(those who) shall chance to live (then)’. The futural meaning is essential, the durative element being rather weak, and mainly to be inferred from the nature of the verb. — There is another instance of this same example in 5523.

(ii) Undefined. Without definitions it is employed to denote the present actual, in the same way as we have it in Modern English, especially in the instances furnished by Lyndesay and the Complaynt.

By virtue of the progressive sense of the verb it is used in B. Br. III, 681 (‘rynand’), and in Du. The petition etc. 40, ‘ar spruning’ (‘are sticking out’) denotes a passivality which naturally accounts for the construction. In these two cases Modern English would likewise have chosen the periphrasis.

Examples.

B. Br. III, 259. Tharfor men, that werrayand [ar], Suld set thar etlyng euir-mar To stand agayne thar fayis mycht, Wmquhile with streth, & quhile with slycht

— 681. That is ane ȝle in[to] the Se; And may weill in mydwart be Betuix kyntyr and Irland: Quhar als gret stremys ar rynnand,

— IV, 226. For thai wat weill and wittirly, That thai that weill ar tiffand heir Sall wyn the segis, — —
PAST TENSE

W. Wa. IV, 745. Now haiff I lost the best man leiffand is;
Du. My beikis ar *spruning* he and bauld.
[The petition of the gray horse, auld Dunbar, 40.]
Ly. Mon. 4235. I se nocht ellis bot troubyll infinitye:
Quharefor, my Sonne, I mak it to the kend,
This warld, I wait, is *drawand* to ane end.
— 5312. So, be this compt, it may be kend,
The warld is *drawand* neir ane end:
C. o. Sc. 60, 5. The thondir slais mony beystis on the feildis;
& quhen it slais ane man that is *stiepand*, he sal be fun-
din dede, and his ene close;
135, 16. mony of vs ar *beigand* our meit athourt the
cuntr,

Remarks.

B. Br. III, 259. It is not impossible that 'men, that
werrayand [ar]' ought to be interpreted: 'men
who use to war', 'war-faring men'. But the
ordinary idea (of actuality) is by no means ex-
cluded: 'when they are engaged in a war'.
— IV, 226. 'heir' might be regarded as a restric-
tion equivalent to an adverb of time, denoting
actuality.

W. Wa. IV, 745. Modern English: 'the best man
living' or 'the best man that is now living'.

C. o. Sc. 135, 16. This is from an exposition of
the bad state of affairs in Scotland at the time
when the Complaynt was written. The peri-
aphrastic present is here aptly chosen to give
heightened colour to the passage.

2. The Past Tense.

(i) Defined. The definitions consist of adverbs or
adverbial expressions. These express either point of time,
as in B. Br. II, 540 ('then'), W. Wa. IV, 469 ('geitt'), 643 ('be this'), V, 964 ('be that'), C. o Sc. 76, 9 ('at that tyme'), or, somewhat more seldom, length of time, as in B. Br. II, 570 ('ay'), and others where perpetuity is implied, further in B. Br. XIX, 723 ('all that day'), Ly. Mon. 3542 ('fourtye zeris'), these being examples of limited duration.

The definition consists of a clause. Here the periphrasis serves to express actuality in almost all instances found: B. Br. III, 716; IV, 189; 632; W. Wa. V, 89; 145; 237; Du. Of a Dance in the quenis chalmer, 40; The wow- ing of the king, etc. 50; Ly. Mon. 764; 1539, in all of which the periphrasis has its place in an 'as'- or 'quhen'- clause; further in C. o Sc. 9, 27 and 76, 13.

In a rather limited number of examples an idea of duration is perhaps more prominent: B. Br. II, 167 and Ly Mon. 1215.

Examples.

B. Br. II, 167. Thusgat maid thai thar aquotance,
That neuir syne, for nakyn chance,
Departyt quhill thai lyffand war.
— 540. Then war the wiffys thyrland the wall
With pikkis, quhar the [assailgeours] all
Entryt, and dystroyit the tour,
— 570. Bot worthy lames off dowglas
Ay trawailland* and besy was;
For to purches the ladyis mete;
[*trauellde he H.]
— III, 670. Nocht-for-thi, on mony wyss,
He wes dredand for tresoun ay:
— 716. Quhen thai the land wes rycht ner hand,
And quhen Schippys war sailand ner,
The Se wald ryss on sic maner,
— IV, 189. And as in-to northumbirland,
He wes with his [gret] rowt Rydand,
A Seiknes tuk him in the vay,
— 632. And as the king apon the land
Wes *gangand* vp and doun, bydand
Till that his menghe reddy war,
His hostes com rycht till hym thar.

B. Br. V, 34. And he wes alsua *doutand* ay
That his lord suld pass the se.

— XIX, 723. All that day *caryand* thai war
With cartis, men that slayne war thar.

— XX, 431. So fer chassit the lord dowglass
With few folk, that he passit wes
All the folk that wes *chassand* then.

W. Wa. IV, 469. *Zeit feill* on fold was *fechtand* cruelly:

— 643. Be this the host *approchand* was full ner;

— V, 89. As thai war best *arayand* Butleris rout,
Betuex parteys than Wallace ischit out;

— 145. Kerle beheld on to the bauld Heroun,
Vpon Fawdoun as he was *lukand* doune,
A suttell striaik wpwart him tuk that tide,

— 237. As he was thus *walkand* be him allayne
Apon Ern side, makand a pytuous mayne,
Schyr Jhone Butler, — —
Out fra his men of Wallace had a sicht.

— 817. Haldyn he was off wer the worthiast man,
In north Ingland with thaim was *leiffand* than.

— 964. Be that Wallace was *semland* with the laiff.

— 1024. The power than with Wallace wes *cummand*;
Thai entryt in, — —

Du. Quhen scho was *danceand* bysselfe,
Ane blast of wind soun fra hir slippis:
[Of a Dance in the quenis chalmer, 40.]

— Quhen men dois fleit in joy maist far,
Sone cumis wo, or thay be war;
Quhen *carpand* wer thir two mostcrowss,
The wolf he ombesett the houss,
[The wowing of the king, etc. 50.]

Ly. Mon. 764. And quhen Adam wes *stepend* sounde,
He tuke ane Rib furth of his syde,

— 1215. So lang as Adam wes *lueand*,
The peple did obserue command;

— 1539. And, quhen the Flude was *degressand*,
Thay wer left welteryng on the land.

— 3542. And quhow that peple *wandrand* wes
Fourye geris in wyldernes.

C. o Sc. 6, 16. The toune of sauern baris vytnes of his del-
egent vailgeantnes, that he maid contrar the iminent dan-
geir that vas *cummand* on the realme of France, at that tyme quhen ane multitude and infinit nummir of men of veyr, — —, discendit fra the hicht of germanye.

C. o. Sc. 9, 27. ande quhen he aperit to be solitar, than he vas *speikand* vitht hym self anent his auen byssynes,

— 44, 2. the prudent quintus cincinatus, quha vas chosyn be the senat to be dictatur of rome, at that samyn tyme he vas *arand* the land vitht his auen hand at the pleuch.

— 76, 9. for al iherusalem ande mekil of iuda vas put tyl extreme desolatione. At that tyme, ane man of Israel callit matathias, — —, vas *sittand* on the hil of modin,

— 76, 13. thir fiue bredir var soir *vepand* for the desolatione of iuda ande iherusalem. Than matathias there father said to them, — —

(ii) **Undefined.** The tense expresses what was going on at a certain time, or under certain circumstances (*actual-ity*), not directly stated or in close connexion with the periphrasis, but, as a rule, to be gathered from the context. The case where it is most independent of such indirect definitions is when it corresponds to the present actual, in indirect narration, of which we have some instances: B. Br. VI, 466; W. Wa. III, 104; V, 11; Ly. Mon. 2025. The verb used here is 'coming': by the bye, it might be worth mentioning that we have no less than 9 instances of this verb under this heading to only 1 for the defined past. As other good examples of this function of the periphrasis may be mentioned: B. Br. XVIII, 114; W. Wa. III, 377; Du. This nycht, etc. 1; Ly. Mon. 1531; C. o. Sc. 70, 19.

Chiefly implying progression or duration in a few cases, no special point or length of time being thought of: B. Br. I, 59 and 95, where the function of the extended form seems perhaps somewhat doubtful; further: IV, 416 and probably also in B. Br. III, 728 and W. Wa. III, 43.
Examples.

B. Br. I, 59. For thar mycht succed na female,
   Qhill foundyn mycht by ony male
   [That were in lyne] ewyn descendand;

79. This ordynance thaim thocht the best,
   For at that tyme wes pess and rest
   Betwyx Scotland and Ingland bath;
   And thai couthnochtsersawe the skaith
   That towart thaim wes apperand;

95. Haid ze tane keip how at that king
   Alwayis, for-owty nsoiournyng,
   Trawayllyt for to wyn senghory,
   And throw his mycht till occupy
   Landis, that war till him marcheand,
   As walis was, and als Ireland;

III, 379. The king saw how his folk wes stad,
   And quhat anoyis that thai had;
   And saw wynter wes cummand ner;

585. For all war doand, knycht and knawe;
   Wes nane that euir disport mycht have
   Fra sterlyng, and fra rowyng,

630. The thingis that thar fieltyd war
   Thai tuk; and turnyt syne agayne,

728. Quhen the folk, that thar wonnad wer,
   Saw menn off Armys in thar cuntre
   Aryve in-to sic quantite,
   Thai fled in hy, with thar catell,

IV, 113. He tuk a culter hat glowand,
   That het wes in a fyre byrnand,

416. The cry raiss hydwisly and hee,
   For thai, that dredeand war to de,
   Rycht as bestis can rair and cry,

VI, 466. And quhen he tald had that tithing,
   How that schir amer wes cumand
   For to hunt hym out of the land,
   With hund and horn, — —

XII, 15. And quhen the kyng wist at thair weir
   In haill battale cummand so neir,
   His battale gert he weill aray.

XVIII, 114. For the laiff hass thair vayis tane
   Till the erische kyngis, that ves thar,
   That in haill battale howand war.

XIX, 661. And with licht of the litill fyre,
That in the luge wes *byrnard* schyre,

In-till the luge a fox he saw,

W. Wa. III, 43. Schir Richart had thre sonmys as I yow tald.

Adam, Rychart, and Symont that was bald.

Adam, eldest, was *growand* in curage;

— 104. Bot thai rycht sone raturnde in agayne,

To Wallace tald that thai war *cummand* fast.

— 377. Gret rowme he maid, his men war *fechland* fast;

— IV, 115. The schirreffis court was *cummand* to the toune,

And he as aye for Scot of most renoune.

— V, 11. Wallace thaim tauld that new wer wes on

The Inglismen was off the toune *cummande*.

— 125. Sternys, be than, began for til apper,

The Inglismen was *cummand* wonyr ner;

— 415. Als Kerle wysst, gyff Wallace *leyffand* war,

— 531. Fra tyme thai wysst that Wallace *leiffand* was,

— 987. The day was donne, and *prochand* wes the nycht;

At Wallace thai askit his consaill rycht.

Du. This nycht in my sleip I wes agast,

Me thocht the Devill wes *tempand* fast

The peple with aithis of crewaltie;

[This nycht in my sleip, etc. 1.]

— Me thocht the Devillis, als blak as pik,

_Solistand_ wer as beis thik,

Ay tempand folk with wayis sle;

[This nycht in my sleip, etc. 101.]

— Quhen that I schawe to him _zour_ markis,

He turnis to me again, and barkis,

As he war *wirriand* ane hog:

Madame, ze heff a dangerouss Dog!

[Of James Dog etc. 5.]

— Quhen that I speik till him freindlyk,

He barkis lyk ane midding tyk,

*War chassand* cattell through a bog:

Madame, ze heff a dangerouss Dog!

[Of James Dog etc. 13.]

Ly. Mon. 1488. Bot with the branche scho did returne,

That Noye mycht cleirly vnderstand

That felloun Flude was *degressand*:

— 1531. Bot Noye had grentast displesouris,

Behauldand the dede Creatouris,

— Seyng thame ly vpone the landis,

And sum wer _fleityng_ on the strandis:
Ly. Mon. 1853. I fynd no man, in to that lande,
His tyrannie that durste ganestande,
Bot Habraham, and Aram his brother:
That disobeyit I fynd none vther,
Quhilk *dwelland* war in that cuntre,

— 2025. Quhen that the Babilonianis,
To gidther with the Caldianis,
Hard tell Kyng Nynus wes *cumand*,
Maid proclamationis through the land,

— 3327. And as ane woman he wes cled,
With wemen counsalit and led;
And schamefullye he wes *syttand*,
With Spindle and with Rock spinnand.

C. o. Sc. 68, 18. sche vas in grite dout ande dreddour for
ane mair dolorus future ruuyne that vas *aperand* to succumb hyr haystlyye,

— 70, 19. The eldest of them vas in harnes, traland ane
halbert behynd hym, — — The sycond of hyr sonnis vas
*sittand* in ane chair, beand clethd in ane sydegoune,
kepand grite grauite, — — hyr gongest sone vas *lyand*
plat on his syde on the cald eird,

— 88, 2. alcibiades persauand that lacedemonia vas *aperand*
to be superior of athenes, he said to the prouest of
kyng darius,

**Remarks.**

B. Br. I, 79. 'apperand' seems here to have the same
meaning as 'coming'.

— 95. 'Marchen' means 'border upon'.

— IV, 416. The expression 'dredand war to de'
is strongly adjectival in meaning, and the whole
that-clause with its antecedent might be regarded
as a circumlocution for 'cowards'.

Ly. Mon. 3327. It appears from the context that
'wes syttand' 'applies to several different occa-
sions; hence, 'he used to sit'.

LATE MIDDLE ENGLISH

C. o Sc. 70, 19. The passage describes the situation of ‘Dame Scotia’s’ meeting with her sons.

88, 2. The occurrence of the periphrasis may be accounted for by the general sense of progression contained in the expression. Here we might also infer a slightly futural meaning: ‘was about to — — ‘, ‘was going to — — ‘. Cp. also B. Br. I, 79 and C. o. Sc. 68, 18.

3. Examples of the Periphrastic Imperative.

Du. Be amyable with humble face, as angellis apperand,
And with a terrebil tail be stangand as edderis;
[Tua mariit wemen etc. 265.]
— Turne to thy freynd, beleif nocht in thy fo,
Sen thow mon go, be grathing to thy gait;
[O Wreche, be war! 3.]

4. Examples of Cases where the Participle is of an Adjectival Nature:

B. Br. III, 696. And by the mole thai passyt zar,
And entryt sone in-to the rase,
Quhar that the stem sa sturdy was,
That wawys wyd [that] brekand* war
Weltryt as hillys her and thar.
[*bolning H.]

K. Qu. 161. And quhilum In hir chiere thus a lyte
Looking sche was;

Ly. Mon. 223. Quhiliks bene to plesand Poetis conforting.

C. o. Sc. 34, 6. al thir seuyn elementis that this last varld is creat of, ar ouer abundand vitht in oure affligit realtime,

C. Survey.

The Midland and Southern Dialects. The chief function of the definite tenses is to denote actuality.
The point of time may be directly expressed, for the present tense, as a rule, by 'now'; for the past tense, by various adverbs or adverbials of time, very often by a clause, especially towards the end of the period, the periphrasis then usually occurring in an 'as'-clause.

But even in the instances where no direct statements are given, this idea is felt strongly enough in most cases. Some instances there are, indeed, where no special time is thought of (either as a point or as a length), the periphrasis then being due to the inherent durative or progressive meaning of the verb.

The definite tenses are also used to denote qualified duration, though this function is strongly on the decrease: it is now, almost exclusively, confined to the rather scanty number of instances where the complements are adverbs or adverbials of time-length, either denoting perpetuity or limited duration.

Very seldom has the periphrasis any additional meaning: I have only found one instance where it has a pronounced idea of futurity.

The verbs employed are mostly durative or progressive by themselves: more than half the number of the instances met with have a verb of rest or motion, and of these 'dwelling' and 'coming' are the most common.

The Northern Dialects. Things are very much the same here and do not call for many further comments. It may, however, be observed that the most common verbs are here 'coming' and 'living'.

Summing up: the definite tenses are now beginning to assume their modern functions. Usage is getting more and more settled: they are very seldom vague in meaning, i.e., encroaching on the domains of the indefi-
nite tenses; in fact, one can safely say that this use is quite discarded in favour of the idea of actual duration and progression, and the cases where the participle partakes rather more of an adjectival character than of a verbal, are likewise comparatively few in number.
III. EARLY MODERN ENGLISH.

Occurrence. During this period also the periphrasis seems to be sparingly used in comparison with recent English.

This impression may, to a certain degree, be due to the nature of the works investigated: where the narrative style does not come in, the periphrasis is very seldom met with. Thus from the first 110 pages of Fisher's Works I have not gathered more than 4 instances, and the same small number from the first 140 pages of Starkey's England. I have likewise read a large part of Ascham's works without finding more than half a dozen examples.

An exception from the texts of this category is afforded by Latimer's sermons, where the construction is represented in a fairly great number of cases. Some of these, however, are stereotyped sermon-phrases or repeated quotations from the Bible.

The plays, which, on account of their form, afford no wide range to the narrating tenses, especially the past, have likewise only furnished a scanty amount of material. This holds good no less for the earlier than for the later part of the period, with the exception perhaps of Shakespeare. The periphrasis is very rare in Udall's Roister Doister, and it does not occur at all, so far as I can find, in the Ferrex and Porrex of Sackville and Norton. ¹ The

¹ Barring such a case as that quoted on p. 81.
contemporaries of Shakespeare — Marlowe, and still more Peele and Greene — are very sparing in their use of the extended tenses; in those plays of Marlowe which I have gone through they only amount to about a score.

Shakespeare has perhaps favoured the construction somewhat more than most of the authors belonging to the period; but still it must be said that the difference is great between the frequency in his works and in such as belong to our days, a fact which is also remarked by Franz (Sh. Gr. 2nd ed. Heidelberg 1909: p. 499, § 622): 'Von be und dem partizip des präsens, der sogenannten progressiven zeitform (he is coming), macht Sh. einen verhältnismässig spärlichen gebrauch, sie kommt erst später häufiger zur verwendung'. The occurrence is, in his works, somewhat uneven: thus the periphrasis is seldom met with in some of his plays, e. g. in Mids., Mu. Adoe, and Tw. N.; in others it is somewhat more common, as in Me. Wives, Jul. C., HamL, King L., Temp. and above all in Taming, Cor. and Hy. VIII.

1. The Present Tense.

(i) Defined. The periphrasis occurs comparatively seldom in the present tense with definitions. These may consist of adverbs, for the Pre-Shakespearean period chiefly 'ever', while Shakespeare has 'now' — in a great many cases — and 'still'.

In not a few instances the time-defining element lies in the connection with another clause, as in Fisher, Works, 60, 23, where the periphrasis denotes limited duration. In the other cases it has rather the function of actuality, as for instance in Sh. Temp. II, 1, 228.
Examples.

Fisher, Works, 60, 23. To whome we anfwered that ye a dogge haueynge a grete fitone bounde aboute his necke be caft downe from an hygh toure, he feleth no weyght of that fitone as longe as he is fallynge downe,

Heyw. The Four P's. I, 11. Pot. Then tell me thys; are you perfyt in drynkynge?

Ped. Perfyt in drynkynge, as may be wysht by thynkynge.

Pot. Then, after your drynkynge, how fall ye to wynking?

Ped. Syr, after drynkynge, whyle the shot is tynkynge,

Some hedes be swymmyng, but myne wyll be synkyng;

And, upon drynkynge, my eyse wil be pynkynge;

For wynkynge to drynkynge is alway lynkynge.

Lat. Serm. Pl. [Sk. Sp. 246, 296] he is euer applynge his busynes, ye shal neuer fynde hym idle, I warraunte you.

— Sev. Serm. 112. for the deuyll, the greate maieftrate, is verye busy nowe, he is euer doynge, he neuer ceafeth to go about to make them like hymfelle.

— 166. One of her neyghbours mette her in the freate, and fayed mettres whether go ye, Mary fayed she, I am goynge to S. Tomas of Acres to the fermon, I coulde not flepe al thys lafte nyght, and I am goynge now thetther, I neuer fayled of a good nap there,

— 180. The fayethfull can not lacke, the unfaythfull is euer lackynge,

— 191. It is much like as if I oughte another man .XX. M. [thoufand] poundes, and fhulde paye it out of hande, or elles go to the dungen of ludgate, and when I am goynge to pryfon, one of my friendes fhould come, and afke, whether goeth thys man?

Lyly, Anat. 77. But alas Euphues, what truth can there be found in a trauailer? what flay [trust] in a ltr[raunger] whose words and bodyes both watch but for a winde, whose feete are euer fleeting,

— 78. the Mirlin striketh at the Partridge, the Eagle often snappeth at the Fly, men are always laying baites for women, which are the weaker velfels:

Marl. Ed. II; V, 1. For such outrageous passions cloy my soul, As with the wings of rancour and disdain, Full often am I soaring up to heaven, To plain me to the gods against them both.
Marl. Tamb. 2. III, 5. *Tamb.* Well, now ye see he is a king: look to him, Theridamas, when we are fighting, lest he hide his crown as the foolish king of Persia did.

Sh. Anth. I, 5, 29. — — Hee's speaking now,

Or murmuring, where's my Serpent of old Nyle,

(For so he cals me:)

— III, 6, 73. — — He hath given his Empire

Up to Whore, who now ar levying

The Kings o'th'earth for Warre.

— IV, 15, 73. — — A Roman, by a Roman

Valiantly vanquish'd. Now my Spirit is going,

I can no more.


*Cor.* Why we are still handling our Ewes, and their Fels you know are greasie.

— Cor. II, 1, 74. When you are hearing a matter betweene party and party, if you chaunce to bee pinch'd with the Collicke, you make faces like Mummers,

— Haml III. 3, 80. *Ham.* Now might I do it pat, now he is praying,

— Hy. VIII; IV, 2, 209. Say his long trouble now is passing

Out of this world.

— Jul. C. II, 1, 362. *Bru.* That must we also. What it is my Caius,

I shall unfold to thee, as we are going,

To whom it must be done.

— III, 1, 277. — — And you shall speake

In the same Pulpit whereto I am going,

After my speech is ended.

— King L. II, 1, 28. Have you not spoken 'gainst the Duke of Cornewall?

Hee's comming hither, now i'th' night, i'th' haste,

— Me. Wives, III, 3, 28. he gives her folly motion and advantage: and now she's going to my wife,

— Mu. Adoe, II, 3, 130. *Leo.* This saies shee now when shee is beginning to write to him,

— Oth. I, 1, 96. Even now, now, very now, an old blacke Ram

Is tupping your white Ewe.

— Taming, II, 1, 402. That she shall have, besides an Argosie

That now is lying in Marcellus roade:
Sh. Taming, IV, 3, 198. *Pet.* It shall be seven ere I go to horse: Looke what I speake, or do, or thinke to doe, You are still *crossing* it,

4, 54. *Bap.* Not in my house Lucentio, for you know Pitchers have eares, and I have manie servants, Besides old Gremio is *harkning* still, And happilie we might be interrupted.

Temp. I, 2, 206. *Mir.* Hevens thank you for't, And now I pray you Sir, For still 'tis *beating* in my minde; your reason For raying this Sea-storme?

II, 1, 228. *Ant.* Noble Sebastian, Thou let'st thy fortune sleepe: die rather: wink'st While thou art *waking*.

Remarks.

Lat. Sev. Serm. 166. Note in this example, and also in 191, the occurrence of the periphrastic tense side by side with the simple form, the latter apparently being used in cases parallel to those in which the clause is introduced by 'here', 'there', of which I have given some examples below: in both these instances the indefinite present is employed in questions beginning with 'whether'.

191. The expression 'when I am goynge — —' refers to a supposed actuality, and thus has a slight suggestion of futurity.

Lyly, Anat. 78. 'are alwayes laying — —'. The expression involves the idea of iteration. — Compare Taming, IV, 3, 198. — This type is very frequent in recent English.

Marl. Tamb. 2. Ill, 5. The context shows that 'when we are fighting' refers to the future.
Sh. Jul. C. III, 1, 277. The periphrasis here acts as a future-equivalent, as is clearly seen from the defining clause.

— Mu. Adoe, II, 3, 130. This is the first instance I have found of the Modern English use of the periphrasis with verbs denoting the beginning of an action.

(ii) **Undefined.** Apart from some few instances, from the earliest authors, where the periphrasis seems mostly due to the nature of the verb, with no regard paid to any ideas of time, namely in Fisher, Works 64, 12 and 93, 8 ('abydynge') and further in Heyw. The Four P's I, 12, where the participle is perhaps more an adjective than a verb, one may say that the tense is employed in close conformity with modern usage.

The most salient feature is the remarkably great frequency of the verbs 'coming' and 'going', especially the former, the instances having one of these verbs amounting to rather more than half of the whole number.

In many cases the meaning is not quite that of actual present, but has a shade of futurity to it.

As regards 'coming', first, it seems natural to suppose such a meaning when there are no indications as to way, direction or point of arrival, in short, where the expression gets more abstract and generalized, as especially in questions, as for instance in Sh. Jul. C. III, 1, 316 and Taming IV, 1, 18.

On the other hand, where the context furnishes the periphrasis with certain complements, as in Ud. R. D. IV, 2 ('yonde'), Sh. Haml. II, 2, 347 ('hither'), Hy. V; III, 6, 84 ('hearke you'), King L. I, 3, 10 ('I heare him'), these may indicate that we have to do with the pure present.

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1 This does not, of course, exclude the idea that sometimes
As examples of the real present with 'going' may be given Peele, Old Wive's T. 448: 2 and Sh. Taming I, 2, 165; for a decidedly futural meaning Sh. King L. II, 4, 326, and for a use which might be pronounced to be the intermediate link between them both, Marl. Tamb. 1, V, 2. — Here the interval between word and act is all but imperceptible.

Of the construction which Sweet terms the immediate future we have two instances, namely Greene, Look.-Gl. 140: 2 and Sh. Me. Wives, IV, 3, 3. — It is worth noting that in both these cases the idea of motion may still be attached to the verb 'going'.

Examples.

Fisher, Works, 64, 12. The partes of my fleffe wherein the nouryfhyng of fleffhely voluptys be refyndent & abydyng, are replete & fullyled with mockes & l pornos.

— 93, 8. Heuen is above vs, wherin almyghty god is refyndent & abydyng, 

Heyw. The Four P's. I, 12. For wyll or skyll what helpeth it, Where frowarde knaves be lackyng wit?

Lat. Sev. Serm. 78. Wherefore we maye be fuer yat God blessed thys Realme, although he curfled ye realme, whose ruler is a chyld, ynder whom the officers be climebyng and glenyng, fluryng, frachyng, and feryng, and — — go by walkes.

— 132. What is nowe behinde? we be etatyng and drynckynge as they were in Noes tyme, and Mariyng ye thyncke as wyckedly as euer was. We be buildyng, purcha- chinge, planting in the contempte of Goddes worde.

Asch. Scholem. [Sk. Sp. 305, 27]. For when I am in presence either of father or mother, whether I speake, kep silence, sit, stand, or go, eate, drinke, be merie, or sad, be sowyng, playying, dauncing, or doing anie thing els, I must do it, as it were, in soch weight, mesure and number,

the context makes the futural meaning more prominent, as, for instance, in Sh. Macb. IV. 3, 215.

1 Compare 'here will I speak' and 'I am going to speak'.
Ud. R. D. III, 1. M. Mery. Nowe say thys againe: he hath somewhat to dooing Which followeth the trace of one that is wowing,

— IV, 2. But what two men are yonde comming hitherwarde?

Lyly, Alex. I, 3. But I must be gone, the philosophers are coming.

— I, 3. Aris. Here cometh Alexander. Alex. I see, Hephestion, that these philosophers are here attending for us.

— V, 4. Alex. But here cometh Apelles. Apelles, what piece of work have you now in hand? Apel. None in hand, if it like your majesty; but I am devising a platform in my head.

— Anat. 80. for you have given unto me a true lover's knot wrought of changeable Silke, and you deeme that I am deuifing how I might haue my coulours changeable alfo,

Marl. Ed. II; IV, 6. Bald. Spencer, I see our souls are fleeting hence;

— Faust. III, 4. Good Frederick, see the rooms be voided straight, His majesty is coming to the hall;

— Tamb. 1, V, 2. Pray for us, Bajazet; we are going.

— 2, III, 4. Ther. How now, madam, what are you doing? Olymp. Killing myself, as I have done my son,

Peele, Old Wife's T. 448: 2. Fan. Gammer, what is he? Madge. O, this is one that is going to the conjurer:

— 457: 1. My blood is pierc'd, my breath fleeting away, Greene, Look.-Gl. 140: 2. Adam. This way he is, and here will I speak with him. First Lord. Fellow, whither pressest thou? Adam. I press nobody, sir; I am going to speak with a friend of mine.

Sh. Anth. I, 3, 4. Cleo. See where he is, Whose with him, what he does: I did not send you. If you finde him sad, Say I am dauncing:

— III, 2, 2. Agri. What are the Brothers parted? Eno. They have dispatcht with Pompey, he is gone, The other three are Sealing.

— 5, 16. Eros. He's walking in the garden thus, and spurnes
The rush that lies before him. Cries Foole
Lepidus,
And threats the throate of that his Officer,
That murdr'd Pompey.

Sh. Anth. IV, 15. 27. *Ant.* I am *dying* Egypt, *dying*; onely
I heere importune death a-while, untill
Of many thousand kisses, the poore last
I lay upon thy lippe.

— 55. *Ant.* I am *dying* Egypt, *dying*.
Give me some Wine, and let me speake a little.

— V, 2, 392. *Dol.* Cæsar, thy thoughts
Touch their effects in this: Thy selfe are *comming*
To see perform'd the dreaded Act which thou
So sought'st to hinder.

— As, I, 1, 32. *Oli.* Now Sir, what make you heere?
*Orl.* Nothing: I am not taught to make any thing.
*Oli.* What mar you then sir?
*Orl.* Marry sir, I am *helping* you to mar that which God
made, a poore unworthy brother of yours with idleness.

— 2, 109. *Le Beu.* I wil tell you the beginning: and if it
please your Ladiships, you may see the end, for the best
is yet to doe, and heere where you are, they are *comming*
to performe it.

— 138. *Le Beu.* You must if you stay heere, for heere is
the place appointed for the wrastling, and they are ready
to performe it.

*Cel.* Yonder sure they are *comming*.

— Cor. I, 3, 55. *Val.* How do you both? You are manifest
house-keepers. What are you *sowing* heere?

— III, 2, 158. *Corio.* Pray be content:
Mother, I am *going* to the Market place:

— — Looke, I am *going*:

— 3, 6. — — What, will he come?
*Enter an Edile.*

*Edile.* Hee's *comming*.

*Bru.* How accompanied?

— IV, 6, 72. *Enter a Messenger.*

*Mes.* The Nobles in great earnestnesse are *going*
All to the Senate-house: some newes is
*comming*
That turnes their Countenances.
Sh. Cor. V, 2, 72. O my Son, my Son! thou art preparing fire for us: looke thee, here's water to quench it.

Haml. II, 2, 347. we coated them on the way, and hither are they coming to offer you Service.

III, 2, 95. Enter King, Queene, Polonius —

Ham. They are coming to the Play: I must be idle.

Get you a place.

Hy. V; I, 2, 297. But this lyes all within the wil of God, To whom I do appeale, and in whose name Tel you the Dolphin, I am coming on, To venge me as I may,

II, 4, 106. King. Or else what follows?

Exc. Bloody constraint: for if you hide the Crowne

Even in your hearts, there will he rake for it. Therefore in fierce Tempest is he coming, In Thunder and in Earth-quake, like a Jove:

III, 6, 84. hearke you, the King is coming, and I must speake with him from the Pridge.

— — Enter the King — —

Hy. VIII; I, 4, 31. Cham. Sweet Ladies will it please you sit; Sir Harry

Place you that side, Ile take the charge of this:

His Grace is entering.

II, 1, 124. Vaux. Prepare there,

The Duke is coming: See the Barge be ready;

4, 252. — — that I committed

The daringst Counsaile which I had to doubt,

And did entreat your Highnes to this course, Which you are running heere.

IV, 2, 132. Grif. She is going Wench. Pray, pray.

Pati. Heaven comfort her.

V, I, 81. King. What say'st thou? Ha?

To pray for her? What, is she crying out?

4, 71. Cham. Mercy o'me: what a Multitude are heere?

They grow still too; from all Parts they are coming,

As if we kept a Faire heere?

Jul. C, I, 2, 194. Enter Caesar and his Train.

Bru. The Games are done,
And Caesar is returning.

Cass. As they passe by,
Plucke Caska by the Sleeve,

Sh. Jul. C. III. 1, 316. — — Is thy Master comming?

Ser. He lies to night within seven Leagues of Rome.

— 3, 7. 1. [Cit.] What is your name?

2. [Cit.] Whether are you going?

— 14. Cin. What is my name? Whether am I going?


— King L. I, 1, 35. Glo. He hath bin out nine yeares, and away he shall againe. The King is comming.

Sennet. Enter King Lear, — —

— 2, 135. Edg. How now Brother Edmond, what serious contemplation are you in?

Bast. I am thinking Brother of a prediction I read this other day, what should follow these Eclipses.

— 3, 10. — — When he returnes from hunting, I will not speake with him,

Ste. He's comming. Madam, I heare him.

II, 4. 69. and there's not a nose among twenty, but can smell him that's stinking;

— 326. Glo. The King is in high rage.

Corn. Whether is he going?

Glo. He cals to Horse, but will I know not whether.

— III. 1, 4. Kent. I know you: Where's the King?

Gent. Contending with the fretfull Elements;
Bids the winde blow the Earth into the Sea,

— 7, 12. Advice the Duke where you are going, to a most festivate preparation: we are bound to the like.

— IV, 4, 26. Mes. Newes Madam,
The Brittish Powres are marching hitherward.
Cor. 'Tis knowne before. Our preparation stands
In expectation of them.

— L. L. L. IV, 3, 2. Bero. The King he is hunting the Deare,

I am coursing my selfe.
They have pitcht a Toyle, I am toyling in a pytch, pitch that defiles;

— V, 2, 770. Page. Master, let me take you a button hole lower: Do you not see Pompey is uncasing for the com-
bat: what meane you?
Lady. Thou'rt mad to say it.
— —

Mess. So please you, it is true: our Thane is comming:
One of my fellowes had the speed of him;
Who almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Then would make up his Message.
— 75. — — He that's comming,
Must be provided for:
— IV, 3, 215. Now is the time of helpe: your eye in
Scotland
Would create Soldiours, make our women fight,
To doffe their dire distresses.
Malc. Bee't their comfort
We are comming thither: Gracious England hath
Lent us good Seyward, and ten thousand men,
— Me. Wives, III, 1. 25. Sim. Yonder he is comming, this way, Sir Hugh.
— 3, 93. M. Ford. Why (alas) what's the matter?
M. Page. Your husband's comming hether (Woman) with all the Officers in Windsor, — —
M. Ford. 'Tis not so, I hope.
M. Page. Pray heaven it be not so, that you have such a man heere: but 'tis most certaine your husband's comming, with halfe Windsor at his heeles, — —
— IV, 2, 83. Mist. Ford. But is my husband comming?
Mist. Page. I in good sadnesse is he, and talkes of the basket too,
— 3, 3. Bar. Sir, the Germane desires to have three of your horses: the Duke himselfe will be to morrow at Court, and they are going to meet him.
— Mids. III, 2, 430. Rob. Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,
Telling the bushes that thou look'st for wars,
And wilt not come?
— IV, 2, 17. Snug. Masters, the Duke is comming from the Temple, and there is two or three Lords & Ladies more married:
— Mu. Adoe, II, 1, 77. Leon. The revellers are entring brother, make good roome. [All put on their masks.]
PRESENT TENSE

Enter Prince, Pedro, — —
Sh. Oth. III, 1, 48. The Generall and his wife are talking of it,
And she speaks for you stoutly.
— Taming, I, 2, 165. Gre. And you are wel met, Signior
Hortensio.
Trow you whither I am going?
— III, 2, 37. Bion. Why, is it not newes to heard of Pe-
truchio's comming?
Bap. Is he come?
Bion. Why no sir.
Bap. What then?
Bion. He is comming.
Bap. When will he be heere?
— IV, 1, 18. Cur. Is my master and his wife comming
Grumio?
— 181. Away, away, for he is comming hither. [Exeunt.]
Enter Petruchio.
— Temp. II, 1, 16. Seb. Looke, hee's winding up the watch
of his wit, By and by it will strike.
— III, 2, 157. Trin. The sound is going away,
Lets follow it, and after do our worke.
— Tw. N. II, 5, 17. Mar. Get ye all three into the box tree:
Malvolio's comming downe this walke, — — lye thou
there: [Throws down a letter.] for heere comes / the
Trowt, that must be caught with tickling. Exit
Enter Malvolio.
— III, 4, 9. Mar. He's comming Madame:
But in very strange manner. He is sure possest Madam.

Remarks.

Heyw. The Four P's. I, 12. 'be lackynge wit', 'are
stupid'.
Asch. Scholem. [Sk. Sp. 305, 27]. Note the alternating
occurrence of the simple and periphrastic forms
in this instance. — There does not seem to
exist any tangible difference between them.
Lyly, Alex. V, 4. 'here cometh — —'. When pre-
ceded by 'here', 'there' or 'where', 'come', as a
rule, does not take the periphrasis. — Among
the numerous examples I pick out a few:

Marl. Tamb. 1, V, 2. The words are uttered by Tamburlaine, and directly after 'going' we have the stage-direction: Exeunt Tamburlaine, Techelles,

Sh. Anth. V, 2, 392. The meaning is: 'You have come yourself and now find that — — is performed'.

— As, I, 2, 109. One might at first be tempted to regard 'comming to performe it' as an example of an immediate future with 'come', the expression thus being on a par with 'going to perform it'. But on a closer examination it will appear, I take it, that the verb retains its full original meaning, and that it cannot be considered to act as an auxiliary. Compare also Anth. V, 2, 392 and Haml. II, 2, 347. — 'Come', then, had not yet developed any parallel construction to the nowadays very common 'be going to'.

— Cor. III, 2, 158. This is a very interesting example: the first 'I am going' is decidedly futural in meaning (I have made up my mind to go directly), the second 'I am going' may either be regarded as actuality ('Looke — —') or as an anticipated actuality, in this case with a very short interval between the moment of the utterance and the actual departing. That such an interval exists, however slightly felt, is shown by the words which follow: 'commend me to my wife', which, of course, must be spoken just before parting.
Sh. Cor. III, 3, 6. If, taking into consideration that 'coming' often implies an anticipation, we suppose that the person in question had not yet actually started, but was only just about to, one is led to conclude that Shakespeare has made the speaker use the definite tense to give the impression of a very near and sure futurity as opposed to the more vague and uncertain 'will — — come?' In such a case we have, then, to do with a sharpening, admirably brought about by the periphrasis, of the futural meaning lying in the question. — In all probability, however, the extended tense is here used to denote actuality: 'he is already on his way', and in that case, of course, the gap between the meaning in 'will — — come' and 'is coming' is much wider.


2. The Past Tense.

(i) Defined. Only in one instance is the definition an adverb, namely in Sh. Hy. VIII; III, 2, 182, where 'now' denotes what had recently taken place. In Sh. Macb. II, 3, 25 the periphrasis is defined by an adverbial, marking duration up to a special time, and in two more examples we have likewise adverbials, namely in Lat. Sev. Serm. 127 ('In the tyme of Noe') and Sh. Oth. IV, 1, 150 ('the other day'), but it may be questioned whether it is not rather the following clause that has called the periphrasis into use in these two cases than the adverbials.

The great bulk of the instances show the periphrasis defined by another clause; especially it occurs in clauses
introduced by ‘as’, ‘when’, or ‘whilest’ to denote what was taking place, when something else happened (simultaneousness); this idea is, though very seldom, further sharpened by such an adverb as ‘yet’: Lyly, Anat. 52 and 71.

Examples.

Hawes, Passet. of Pl. XXXIII, 16. [Sk. Sp. 122.] And as he was his stroke discharging,

I lept asyde from hym full quickly,

Lat. Sev. Serm. 108. For as I was goynge to hys Sermon, I remembred me that I had neither layed maffe, nor mattens.

127. In the tyme of Noe, they were eatynge and drynkynge, byyldeynge planteynge and fodaynely the water came vpon them, and drowned them:

In the tyme of Lothe alfo, they weare eatynge and drynkynge. etc. And fodenlye the fyre came vpon them, and deuoured them. And nowe we are eatynge and drinkynge.

152. Ther was a scarcher in londgn, which executynge his office difpleased a marchaunt man, in fo much that when he was doinge his office, they were at wordes,

Sp. F. Q. VI, 2, 9. Where, as this day I was enraunging it, I chaunst to meete this Knight — —

3, 25. The Beast, — —

Into the wood was bearing her apace

— when Calidore,

— —

Him overtooke

5, 35. And therein he likewise was praying now,

Whenas these Knights arriv'd,

6, 30. At last he up into the chamber came

Whereas his Love was sitting all alone,

6, 37. There whilst he thus was setting things above,

— —

He gan bethinke him

7, 23. Thus whylest they were debating diverslie,

The Salvage forth out of the wood issew'd

10, 39. It fortuned one day, when Calidore

Was hunting in the woods, as was his trade,

A lawlesse people,

— —

The dwelling of these shepheards did invade;
Sp. F. Q. VI, 12, 15. Who in a morning, when this Maiden faire
Was dighting her, — —

Chaunst to espy upon her yvoy chest
The rosie marke,

Lyly, Anat. 52. As she was yet talking, supper was set on the bords, then Philantu[i]s ipake thus vnto Lucilla.
— 71. But whilest he was yet speakinge, Ferardo entered, whome they all dutifullly welcommed home,
— 82. As they wer thus pleasauntly conferring the one with the other, Luiia ( — —) entered into the Parlour,
Marl. Ed. II; V, 4. Sol. He would have taken the king away perforce,
As we were bringing him to Killingworth.
— Faust. IV, 6. Cart. I'll tell you how he served me: as I was going to Wittenberg t'other day — — he met me
Greene, Look.-Gl. 141: 1. Sir, as I was coming amongst the port-royal of Niniveh, there appeared to me a great devil,
Sh. As, III, 2, 279. Jaq. By my troth, I was seeking for a Foole, when I found you.
— Haml. II, 1, 86. Ophe. My Lord, as I was sowing in my Camber,
Lord Hamlet — —
— — he comes before me.
— Hy. V; 2, 229. Now beshrew my Fathers Ambition, hee was thinking of Civill Warres when hee got me,
— Hy. VIII; III, 2, 182. King. Good my Lord,
You are full of Heavenly stuffe, and beare the Inventory
Of your best Graces, in your minde; the which
You were now running o're:
— Macb. I, 7, 65. I would, while it was smyling in my Face,
Have pluckt my Nipple from his Bonelesse Gummies,
— II, 3, 25. Macd. Was it so late, friend, ere you went to Bed,
That you doe lye so late?
Port. Faith Sir, we were carowsing till the second Cock:
— IV, 3, 148. — — What I am truly
Is thine, and my poore Countries to command:
Whither indeed, before they heere approach
Old Seyward with ten thousand warlike men
Already at a point, was *setting forth*:
Now wee'l together,
Sh. Mu. Adoe, II, 3, 136. *Leon.* O when she had writ it, & was *reading* it over, she found Benedicke and Beatrice betweene the sheete.

— Oth. IV, 1, 150. *Cassio.* She was heere even now: she haunts me in every place. I was the other day *talking* on the Seabanke with certaine Venetians, and thither comes the Bauble,

— Taming, III, 2, 169. and threw the sops all in the Sextons face: having no other reason, but that his beard grew thinne and hungerly, and seem'd to aske him sops as hee was *drinking*:

(ii) Undefined. With the exceptions of Starkey, Engl. I, 3, 887, where 'floryschyng' is to be regarded as rather more adjectival than verbal, Sp. F. Q. VI, 12, 3, and Sh. Jul. C. III, 2, 22, where the periphrasis is chiefly due to the character of the verb, the undefined tense is used, just as in recent English, to mark the state of things at a certain time or under certain circumstances, these being indicated in the context in a more or less direct way. — We find here several interesting examples where the periphrasis is chosen in order to depict, in a lively way, a given situation, even in the works from the earlier part of the period, as in Heyw. The Four P's. I, 18; Lat. Sev. Serm. 119; Asch. Scholem. 1; Tox. 157, and Sackv. Mirr. for Mag. Ind. 3.

**Examples.**

Starkey, Engl. I, 3, 887. when thys land was more *floryschyng* then hyt ys now.

The master devyll sat in his jacket;And all the soules were *playinge* at racket.

Lat. Sev. Serm. 119. and there was fyr Roberte Cuntable, the Lorde Huffye, the Lord Darfy. And the Lorde Darfye,
was tellynge me of the fayethfull service that he hadde
done the kynges maiefty

Lat. Sev. Serm. 183. For Ludas the twelthe was a boute his busi-
nesses, he was occupied aboute his marchaundise, and was
prouydying among the bylhoppes and preistes,

Asch. Scholem. I. [Sk. Sp. 305.] Hir parentes, the Duke and
the Kynges maiefty

For Ludas the twelte was a boute his bu-
fines, he was occupied aboute his marchaundise, and
was prouydyng among the bylhoppes and preistes,

...was hauing in the Parke: I founde her in her
Chamber, readinge Phaedon Platonis

...was reding howe some soules being
well fethered, flewe alwayes about heauen

...The feeldes on bothe sidaes were playne and laye
almost yearde depe with snowe, — — That morning the
fun fhone bright and clere, the winde was whistelinge
a lofte,

Sackv. Mirr. for Mag. Ind. 3. [Sk. Sp. 284.] Hawthorne had
lost his motley lyverye,

The naked twigges were shivering all for
colde:

Sp. F. Q. VI, 12, 3. And had endured many a dreadfull stoure
In bloudy battell for a Ladie deare,
The fayrest Ladie then of all that living were:

Sh. Haml. II, 2, 501. — — For loe, his Sword

Which was declining on the Milkie head
Of Reverend Priam, seemd' i' th' Ayre to
sticke:

— Hy. VIII; II, 3, 64. L. Cham. Good morrow Ladies;
what wer't worth to know

The secret of your conference?

An. My good Lord,
Not your demand; it values not your asking:
Our Mistris Sorrowes we were pittying.

— Jul. C. III, 2, 22. Had you rather Cæsar were living,
and dye all Slaves; then that Cæsar were dead, to live
all Free-men?

— King L. I, 2, 32. Glou. Why so earnestly seeke you to
put up that Letter?
Bast. I know no newes, my Lord.

Glou. What Paper were you reading?

— IV, 2, 6. I told him of the Army that was Landed:
He smil'd at it. I told him you were comming,
His answer was, the worse.
Sh. Me. Wives, II, 1, 29.  
**Mis Ford.** Mistris Page, trust me, I was going to your house.
**Mis. Page.** And trust me, I was comming to you: you looke very ill.
— Oth. III, 4, 172. — — Beshrew me much, Æmilia,
I was (unhandsome Warrior, as I am)
**Arraigning** his unkindnesse with my soule:
But now I finde, I had suborn'd the Witnesse,
And he's Indited falsely.
— 193. **Cassio.** What make you from home?
How is't with you, my most faire Bianca?
Indeed (sweet Love) I was comming to your house.
**Bian.** And I was going to your Lodging,
Cassio.
— Temp. II, 1, 96. **Gon.** Sir, we were talking, that our garments seeeme now as fresh as when we were at Tunis at the marriage of your daughter,

3. **Examples of the Periphrastic Infinitive.**

Heyw. The Four P's. I, 22. But, where ye doubt, the truthe nat knowynge,
Belevynge the beste, good may be growynge.
In judgynge the beste, no harme at the lest;
In judgynge the worste, no good at the beste.
Lat. Serm. Pl. [Sk. Sp. 239.] Therfore preache and teach and let your ploughe be doynge; — — let your plough therfore be going & not cease, that the ground maye brynge forth fruite.
— [Sk. Sp. 242.] so diligently muste the prelates and ministers labour for the fedinge of the soule: boeth the ploughes muste styll be doynge, as mooste necessarrye for man.

4. **The Adjectival Meaning.**

Represented in not a few cases, most of them, however, occurring in Shakespeare, and thus the frequency
might partly be attributed to the comparatively considerable mass of material collected from this author.

The most notable are 'wavering' (fickle, inconstant), 'living' (in the sense of alive), 'loving', 'fitting' and 'stirring'. — Note also the curious instance of a participle in *-ant* (Lat. Serm. Pl. Sk. Sp. 241).

**Examples.**

Lat. Serm. Pl. [Sk. Sp. 241.] I knowe them, and haue bene *conuersant* wyth some of them.

Ud. R. D. II, 1. Yea and extempore will he dities compoie, Foolifhe Marlias nere made the like I suppoie,

Yet mult we fing them, as good Ituffe I vndertake,

As for luch a pen man is well *fittyng* to make.

Sackv. & Nort. Ferr. and Porr. V, 1. So giddy are the common people's mindes, So glad of chaunge, more *waveringe* than

the sea.

Lyly, Anat. 59. if he finde thee wanton before thou be wo[o]ed, he wil geffe thou wilt be *waveringe* when thou art wed-

ded.

Marl. Ed. II; II, 1. *Y. Spen*. Our lady's first love is not *waveringe*;

My life for thine she will have Gaveston.

Sh. Cor. II, 3, 216. *Brut*. Did you perceive, He did sollicite you in free Contempt, When he did need your Loves: and doe you thinke,

That his Contempt shall not be *brusing* to you,

When he hath power to crush?

— Haml. I, 1, 14. *Barn*. Have you had quiet Guard?

*Fran*. Not a Mouse *stirring*.

— 2, 149. So excellent a King, that was to this Hiperion to a Satyre: so *loving* to my Mother,

That he might not beteene the windes of heaven

Visit her face too roughly.
Sh. Hy. VIII; III, 1, 109. 

_Camp._ Put your maine cause into the Kings protection,

Hee's loving and most gracious.

— Macb. II, 3, 45. 

_Macd._ Is thy Master stirring?

Our knocking ha's awak'd him: here he comes.

_Lenox._ Good morrow, Noble Sir.

_Macb._ Good morrow both.

_Macd._ Is the King stirring, worthy Thane?

_Macb._ Not yet.

— Me. Wives, III, 1, 14. 

_Evan._ 'Plesse my soule: how full of Chollors I am, and trembling of minde:

— Oth. III, 1, 26. 

_Cassio._ Prythee keepe up thy Quillets, ther's a poor peece of Gold for thee; if the Gentlewoman that attends the Generall be stirring, tell her — —

_Clo._ She is stirring sir: if she will stirre hither, I shall seeme to notifie unto her.

— Temp. II, 1, 220. 

_Seb._ What? art thou waking?

_Ant._ Do you not heare me speake?'

— 2, 115. 

_Tri._ I tooke him to be kil'd with a thunder-strok; but art thou not dround Stephano: — — And art thou living Stephano?

5. The Periphrasis Expressing a Subjective Feeling.

In some cases, especially from the latter part of the period, we find the periphrasis used to suggest a subjective feeling on the part of the speaker, sometimes implying a certain softening of the expression, but sometimes also conveying a meaning of quite an opposite nature. — In all cases the essential function is to throw in a degree of personal interest, which could not have manifested itself in the indefinite tenses on account of their more neutral and matter-of-fact character.

Examples.

_Lat. Sev. Serm._ 179. Yea, on the hollye day, they can not fynde in their hertes to come to the Temple, to the blessed communion, they must be working at home.
Lyly, Anat. 68. I will omitte that, and feing that we had both rather be talking with them, then tattling of them, we will immediately goe to them.

Marl. Ed. II; IV, 6. Rice. My lord, be going; care not for these,

Sh. As, IV, 1, 87. Am not I your Rosalind?

Orl. I take some joy to say you are, because I would be talking of her.

— Cor. II, 1, 87. It is not woorth the wagging of your Beards, and your Beards deserve not so honourable a grave, as to stuffe a Botchers Cushion, or to be intomb'd in an Asses Packe-saddle; yet you must bee saying, Martius is proud: who in cheape estimation, is worth all your pre-decessors,

— Hy. VIII; V, 4, 11. Ile scratch your heads; you must be seeing Christenings? Do you looke for Ale, and Cakes heere, you rude Raskalls?

— Taming, II, 1, 78. Gre. Saving your tale Petuchio, I pray let us that are poore petitioners speake too? Bacare, you are mervaylous forward.

Pet. Oh, Pardon me signior Gremio, I would faine be doing.

Gre. I doubt it not sir. But you will curse Your wooing neighbors:

— Ill, 2, 207. Kate. Nay then, Doe what thou canst, I will not goe to day, No, nor to morrow, not till I please my selfe, The dore is open sir, there lies your way, You may be jogging whiles your bootes are greene:

— V, 1, 92. Carrie this mad knave to / the Jaile: father Baptista, I charge you see that hee be / forth comming.

Remarks.

Lat. Sev. Serm. 179. 'must be working' expresses indignation and disapproval. The simple form 'must work' would mean a bare and objective statement that such a necessity really existed. — Compare the similar instances of Sh. Cor. II, 1, 87 and Hy. VIII; V, 4, 11.
Lyly, Anat. 68. The durative element lying in the periphrasis seems to be introduced to show that the occupation in itself, and not its results, is the interest of the persons in question. — Compare Sh. As, IV, 1, 87, where the periphrasis also serves to make the wish more modestly expressed.

Marl. Ed. II; IV, 6. The extended tense is certainly chosen here to make the demand more polite; the simple form 'go' would be too abrupt in its shortness. — But that it is not mainly the greater length that produces the impression sought for will be seen from a comparison with 'be gone', which is not much shorter but sounds decidedly curt and harsh: evidently the chief thing is the idea of gradual progression lying in the periphrasis. — Compare the interesting instance in Sh. Taming, III, 2, 207, where the periphrasis is used by way of irony.
IV. THE COMPOUND TENSES.

1. The Perfect and the Pluperfect.

These tenses do not occur in Old English, nor in the earlier part of the subsequent period.

Later on, they creep slowly into existence — even as late as Shakespeare they are strikingly scarce; but they are now employed frequently enough.

(i) Defined. When defined, by adverbs, adverbials, or the context, they express either qualified duration or, more seldom, actuality.

The former category is represented by Sh. Hy. VIII; III, 2, 226 ('ever'), where perpetuity is implied, and further by Ch. C. T. Kn. T. 69 ('al this fourtenight'), Asch. Tox. 82 ('longe'), Sp. F. Q. VI, 7, 38 ('two whole yeares'), Sh. Hy. VIII; II, 3, 101 ('sixteene yeares'), Milt P. L. II, 933 ('to this hour'), IX, 135 ('who knows how long Before'), Pep. 68 [62—63] ('long'), Bun. Pilgr. 124, 7 ('this twenty years'), Congr. Bach. I, 1 ('all the morning'), Def. Rob. 194 ('a Fortnigt'), Mont. III, 71 ('long'), Joh. Rass. 50 ('long') and St. S. J. 302 ('all this while'), which all are examples of limited duration.

The latter category, actuality, comprises, more or less decidedly, Congr. W. W. I, 2; Spect. 39 [Add.]; Def. Rob. 221 and Mont. III, 179.

In Def. Rob. 112 'often' marks an iterated occupation.
Examples.

Ch. C. T. Kn. T. 69. And certes, lord, to abyden your presence, Here in the temple of the goddesse Clemence We han ben waytinge al this fourtenight;
Asch. Tox. 82. But as for the Turkes I am werie to talke of them partlye because I hate them, and partlye bycaufe I am now affectioned even as it were a man that had bene longe wanderyng in straunge contries and would fayne be at home
Sp. F. Q. VI, 7, 38. So now she had bene wandring two whole yeares
— — Yet had she not in all these two yeares space Saved but two;
Sh. Hy. VIII; II, 3, 101. Why this it is: See, see, I have beene begging sixeene yeares in Court (Am yet a Courtier beggerly) — —
— III, 2, 226. — — I Can nothing render but Allegiant thankes, My Prayres to heaven for you; my Loyaltie Which ever ha’s, and ever shall be growing, Till death (that Winter) kill it.
Milt. P. L. II, 933. Fluttering his pennons vain, plumb-down he drops Ten thousand fathom deep, and to this hour Down had been falling, had not, by ill chance, The strong rebuff — —
— IX, 135. To me shall be the glory sole among The Infernal Powers, in one day to have marred What he, Almighty styled, six nights and days Continued making, and who knows how long Before had been contriving?
Pep. 68 [62—63]. I have long been building, and my house to my great content is now almost done.
Bun. Pilgr. 124, 7. When I was at home in mine own Country I heard as you now affirm, and, from that hearing went out to see, and have been seeking this City this twenty years: but find no more of it, than I did the first day I set out.
Congr. Bach. I, 1. What fine lady hast thou been putting out
of conceit with herself, and persuading that the face she had been making all the morning was none of her own?

Congr. W. W. I, 2. Mean! why he would slip you out of this chocolate-house, just when you had been talking to him — as soon as your back was turned — whip he was gone!

Spect. 39 [Add.]. As I have been walking in his fields I have observed them stealing a sight of me over an hedge,

Def. Rob. 112. I had a great mind to bring it Home if I could; for I had often been musing, Whether it might not be possible to get a Kid or two,

— 194. I gave him a Cake of my Bread, and he eat it like a ravenous Wolf, that had been starving a Fortnight in the Snow:

— 221. After this I had been telling him how the Devil was God's enemy — —. Well, says Friday,

Mont. III, 71. The confounding of all ranks, and making a jest of order, has long been growing in England

— 179. I am inclined to be of the opinion that nobody makes their own marriage or their own will: it is what I have often said to the Duchess of Marlborough, when she has been telling me her last intentions,

Joh. Rass. 50. I have been long comparing the evils with the advantages of society, and resolve to return into the world to-morrow.

St. S. J. 302. Then I solemnly declare, said the lady, blushing, you have been making love to me all this while.

(ii) Undefined. When not accompanied by any temporal complements, they denote that such and such an action or state of things has lasted for some time in the past, either somewhat indefinitely, as in Piers Pl. Pass. V, 129 (where the verb is the durative 'dwellynge'), or else — and this may be regarded as the rule — the tense is defined by itself, representing the action as bordering, more or less closely, on the present: Sher. Riv. III, 1, where 'lately' is understood and Sh. Oth. III, 3, 49, meaning 'I was just now talking' (Je viens de parler) may be picked out as specimens for the two main types.

Not infrequently, in instances belonging to the 'just'-
THE COMPOUND TENSES

type, the inner stress glides from the idea of occupation over to this idea of 'just-now-being-done', insomuch that the sense of duration is, strictly considered, thrown into the background, sometimes more, sometimes less. Compare Joh. Rass. 66, where the idea of duration is still admissible, in so far that it certainly took some space of time to deliver and thus also of listening to 'the dismal history', with Spect. 138 [Budg.] and above all St. S. J. 336, in which last example not a trace of duration is left.

In cases like these the periphrasis is chosen to give a fresher and livelier colour to the expression, to bring out the idea of time, not as a length but as a point: in short, its function is here that of actuality.

Examples.

Piers Pl. Pass. V, 129. Amonges Burgeyses haue I be. dwellynge At Londoun,
And gert bakbitinge be a brocoure. to blame mennes ware.

Lyly, Alex. II, 2. Alex. — — How now, Apelles, is Venus's face yet finish'd?
Apel. Not yet: — —
Alex. Well, let it rest unperfect; and come you with me, where I will shew you that finish'd by nature, that you have been trifling about by art.

Greene, Look.-Gl. 138: 1. Adam. By my troth, sir, I cry you mercy; your face is so changed that I had quite forgotten you: well, master devil, ve have tossed over many a pot of ale together.

Adam. Faith, sir, my old friend, and now good-man deviil, you know you and I have been tossing many a good cup of ale: — —

Sh. Oth. III, 3, 49. Des. How now my Lord?
I have bin talking with a Suitor heere, A man that languishes in your displeasure.

Spect. 44 [Add.]. the bell rung to dinner, where the gentleman I have been speaking of had the pleasure of seeing the huge jack
Spect. 86 [Add.]. My friend Sir Roger de Coverley told me the other night, that he had been reading my paper upon Westminster Abbey, in which, says he, there are a great many ingenious fancies.

— 138 [Budg.]. He had just received a letter from his steward, which acquainted him that his old rival and antagonist in the country, Sir David Dundrum, had been making a visit to the widow.

— 214 [Add.]. Or, if we believe, as many wise and good men have done, that there are such phantoms and apparitions as those I have been speaking of, let us endeavour —

Def. Rob. 38. told me they had been musing very much upon what I had discoursed with them of, the last Night, and they came to make a secret Proposal to me;

Sw. Gull. 242. he said, he had been very seriously considering my whole story,

Mont. II, 137. I have been running about Paris at a strange rate with my sister, and strange sights have we seen.

Joh. Rass. 66. Here Imlac entered and interrupted them. «Imlac», said Rasselas, «I have been taking from the Princess the dismal history of private life,

St. S. J. 336. I was a small tribute, I told her, which I could not avoid paying to virtue, and would not be mistaken in the person I had been rendering it to for the world

Sher. Riv. II, 1. I have been considering that I grow old and infirm, and shall probably not trouble you long.

— 2. Sir 'L. Hah! my little ambassadress — upon my conscience, I have been looking for you;

Lucy. O gemini! and I have been waiting for your worship here on the North.

— III, 1. C. Abs. I have been revolving, and reflecting, and considering on your past goodness, — —

A. Abs. Well, sir?

C. Abs. I have been likewise weighing and balancing what you were pleased to mention concerning duty, — —

— IV, 3. C. Abs. To what fine purpose I have been plotting!

Remarks.

Greene, Look.-Gl. 138: 1. It is somewhat difficult to recognize any decided difference in function be-
between the simple form on one hand and the periphrastic on the other in this instance. — It might be conjectured, however, that in his last speech Adam recalls with more liveliness, and also, I am tempted to say, tenderness, the many merry occasions referred to. — Mark, by the bye, the much more affectionate terms in the last speech as opposed to the rather cold-sounding statements in the first. — This, then, would account for the periphrasis here, but the change may also be due to a desire to avoid monotony of expression.

Spect. 86 [Add.] The expression does not necessarily imply that he had read the whole of the paper but only that he had just been engaged in reading it: perhaps he had perused but a small part of it. — The choice of the periphrasis here might be ascribed to Sir Roger having aimed at a very cautious statement; and if this is really the case, one must say that he has couched his meaning in a very happy turn.

Additional Remarks.

(i) In some cases the verb ‘be’ seems to retain, to a certain degree, its own meaning, the inner stress being divided between that and the participle, which latter forms a sort of supplement, expressing the occupation or the errand: ‘as he had been at G. to take his leave’ (Pep. 52), ‘where the King himself had been and gathered’ (Pep. 169), ‘where I had been before and had been peering’ (Def. Rob. 79).

Pep. 52 [60—61]. he was then drunk, having been taking his leave at Gravesend the night before, and so could not remember what it was that he said.
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Pep. 169 [62—63]. I eat some of the first cherries I have eat this year, off the tree where the King himself had been gathering some this morning.

Def. Rob. 79. I went all over that part of the Island, where I had been before peering in every Corner, and under every Rock, to see for more of it.

St. S. J. 338. When La Fleur told me the Lieutenant de Police had been enquiring after me, — the thing instantly recurred;

— 359. When I alighted at the hotel, the porter told me a young woman with a bandbox had been that moment enquiring for me

(ii) As I have mentioned before, the periphrasis has, in later times, been chosen where a certain liveliness of style is aimed at, or particularly to express a personal interest, or the like.

The compound tenses offer many examples of this use of the periphrasis. — Onions, in An Advanced Engl. Syntax, § 134 c, p. 113, has a remark to the following effect: ‘The Continuous forms are sometimes used idiomatically without implying anything ‘continuous’, e. g. ‘What have you been doing to that picture?’, ‘Someone has been tampering with this lock’. These are different from have you done, has tampered; they give an emotional colouring to the sentence and express surprise, disgust, impatience, or the like’. — It is clear that such cases as these may offer many difficulties in the way of a correct interpretation. To my mind, however, most of them seem to imply rather a softening of the expression, than the contrary. In Pep. 42 [63—64], for instance, ‘he had not been drinking’ might be regarded as a euphemism for ‘he was not drunk’ 1.

1 Fearenside holds that this is ‘a common enough phrase’, and adds: ‘to me it suggests a recent and continuous action which would naturally end in the state described in the past participle’. 
Pep. 42 [63—64]. This day, W. Bowyer told me, that his father is dead lately, and died by being drowned in the river, coming over in the night; but he says he had not been drinking.

Congr. Bach. I, 1. How now, George, where hast thou been snarling odious truths, and entertaining company like a physician, — — What fine lady hast thou been putting out of conceit with herself, and persuading that the face she had been making all the morning was none of her own?

— D.—D. I, 3. Mask: You have already been tampering with my Lady Plyant?

Lady Touch. I have: she is ready for any impression I think fit.

Sher. Riv. III, 1. — damn your demure face! — come, confess, Jack — you have been lying — ha'n't you? 'You have been playing the hypocrite, hey? I'll never forgive you, if you ha'n't been lying and playing the hypocrite.

— IV, 2. What, you have been treating me like a child!

— V, 1. You have been crying! I'll be hanged if that Faulkland has not been tormenting you!

— 3. What's going on here? — So you have been quarrelling too, I warrant.

2. Examples of the Future and the Preterite Future.

Above (in sections I—III) I have already dealt with several cases of combinations of 'shall' and 'will' and the periphrastic infinitive, viz., where I have considered the participle to be chiefly of an adjectival nature, or generally where this combination does not seem to constitute a real tense. The line of difference may be very difficult to draw, however, and therefore I think it best to recall attention to all the instances before given 1, and to expand the list

1 These are: Ae. L. XII, 268; V. a V. 37, 6; 107, 15; 121, 9; 121, 23 (p. 24); Ashby, P. Pr. 285; D & o. 594; 1097 (p. 46); Lyly, Anat. 59; Sh. Cor. II, 3, 216 (p. 81); Sh. As. IV, 1, 87; Taming, II, 1, 78 (p. 83).
by giving some additional examples. As for the instances quoted here, I do not make any distinctions at all, but simply give the forms below, although I readily admit that the heading is rather sweeping.

Lydy. T. o Gl. 53 [p. 36]. And eke my sone Cupide, þat is so blind,
He shal ben helping, fulli to perfourme your hole desire, þat nöing behind
Ne shal be left: — —
Ashby, D & o. 691. Thus your glorious fame shal be springing
To high & lowe, — —
Caxt. Bl. 151, 20. Duryng the tyme that the goode kynge of fryse, Blanchardyn and Sadoyne, and their folke shal be thus saylynge towarde Tourmaday / We shall retorne to speke of the tyraunte,
Heyw. The Four P's. I, 11. Ped. Syr, after drynkynge, whyle the shot is tynkyng,
Some hedes be swymmyng, but myne wyll be synkyng;
And, upon drynkynge, my eyse wil be pynkyng;
Sh. Hy. V; III, 7, 100. Orleance. He is simply the most active Gentleman of France.
Const. Doing is activitie, and he will still be doing.
— King L. I, 4, 151. Foole. No faith, Lords and great men will not let me, if I had / a monopolie out, the would have part an't, and Ladies too, they / will not let my have all the foole to my selfe, they'l be snatching; /
— Mu. Adoe, I, 1, 113. Beat. I wonder that you will still be talking, signior Benedicke, no body markes you.
— III, 5, 34. Con. Dog. A good old man sir, hee will be talking as they say, when the age is in, the wit is out, God helpe us,
— Oth. III, 2, 2. Othe. These Letters give (Jago) to the Pylot,
And by him do my duties to the Senate: That done, I will be walking on the Workes, Repaire there to mee.
— Taming, III, 1, 52. Bian. [Luc.] Mistrust it not, for — —
Hort. [Bian.] I must beleeve my master, else I promise you,
I should be arguing still upon that doubt,
But let it rest, — —

Sh. Temp. II, 1, 27. **Gon.** Therefore my Lord.
**Ant.** Fie, what a spend-thrift is he of his tongue.
**Alon.** I pre-thee spare.
**Gon.** Well, I have done: But yet
**Seb.** He will be talking.

Mass. O. D. II, 2. **Will** you still be babbling
Till your meat freeze on the table?

Pep. 106 [60—61]. Met with Mr. Spong, who still would be
**giving** me counsel of getting my patent out,
— 156 [63—64]. Their fleet for Guinea is now, they say, ready and abroad, and will be going this week.

Bun. Pilgr. 40, 14. Also he **would** be often reading in the Roll
that one of the shining ones gave him,
— 60, 1. Thus he went on a great while, yet still the flames **would** be reaching towards him;

Congr. D.-D. III, 2. **Sir** Paul, what a phrase was there! You
**will** be making answers, and **taking** that upon you which ought to lie upon me!

Spect. 51 [Add.]. Sometimes he **will** be **lengthening** out a verse
in the singing psalms, half a minute after the rest of the congregation have done with it;
— 64 [Add.]. Sir Roger told me, — — that the country people **would** be **tossing** her into a pond and **trying** experiments with her every day, if it was not for him and his chaplain.

Mont. III, 251. — — I have not tasted a drop of punch since we parted; I cannot bear the sight of it; it would recall too tender ideas, and I **should** be **quarrelling** with Fortune for our separation, — —

**Remarks.**

Caxt. Bl. 151, 20. This is a very interesting passage.
The course of events is suddenly cut off, and the reader is requested to keep in mind a given situation, until the narration is taken up again.

Sh. Mu. Adoe, III, 5, 34. Here the periphrasis has an intensive character (closely allied to the idea of repetition). — Compare Temp. II, 1, 27.
Sh. Oth. III, 2, 2. In this case, as also in Caxt. Bl. 151, 20, the tense is defined by the context. One might hold that in both these instances actuality is the main function of the periphrasis: the durative element, however, is also very prominent.

Congr. D.-D. Ill, 2. A clear instance of the 'emotional colouring'. — Compare Spect. 64 [Add], where the periphrasis represents the actions referred to as never really undertaken but always on the verge of it, or sooner, only expresses that the persons in question 'had a great mind to do it' (would be for tossing — —). — In several of the above examples a faint shade of this subjective feeling may also be inferred, although these things are so very little tangible that it would be next to impossible to fix the respective meanings in words.

General Remark.

Roughly taken, the function of the periphrastic future and preterite future is to express duration in the future, but this idea is seldom very strong unless in any way enforced by definitions. Otherwise it is, in most cases, very little prominent. — Compare Western (§ 17): 'Disse tider betegner, når de omskrives, egentlig, hvad der vil eller vilde gå for sig i en nærmere bestemt fremtid, f. eks. I should be quarrelling with him all the time (Ward, Grieve II, 17); men da begrebet varighed gjerne træder tilbage, når talen er om fremtiden, får de i almindelighed blot betydningen af noget, som vil (vilde) indtræffe engang i fremtiden, — —'
CONCLUDING SURVEY.

The main functions of the definite tenses have, through all periods, been the same, namely actuality and qualified duration.

These have been treated in detail above, and I shall only mention here one or two things concerning their mutual relations during the development of the periphrasis.

The most striking fact is a very interesting displacement that has taken place in the range of action, so to say, of these two categories: In Old and Early Middle English qualified duration is comparatively more represented than actuality, while in Late Middle and Early Modern English this latter function is decidedly preponderant and must be looked upon as the chief one. In this connection it may be brought to mind that the later developed compound tenses have, to a certain degree, their part in this change. Thus in Modern English the function of qualified duration has, to a great extent, been taken over by the definite perfect and pluperfect: especially when defined, these tenses nearly always imply limited duration.

Western (see §§ 9, 10) and Sweet (New Engl. Gr. §§ 2213, 2221, 2222) both deny that the definite tenses can express repetition, this being reserved for the indefinite tenses, as for instance in: he writes a letter every day (Western), or: he goes to Germany once a year (Sweet).
— 'When', says Sweet, 'a definite tense is used in a context implying repetition, the definite tense does not share in this meaning (for repetition is expressed by indefinite tenses, § 2213), but keeps its own; thus *his temper only failed him when he was being nursed* means 'on each occasion when he was being nursed' — that is, the definite tense applies to each of the repeated phenomena singly'.

— Or as Western has it: 'Derimod kan selve den situation, hvorunder noget sker, gjenta sig. Siger jeg således: Yesterday, when I came, he was writing, and the day before yesterday, when I came, he was also writing, and the day before that, when I came, he was also writing etc., så kan alt dette samles till det ene udtryk: *Whenever he was writing, I came*'.

Expressions like these imply what I would term *iterated actuality*.

It is clear that the periphrasis is quite out of question in such cases as those first spoken of, namely: *he writes a letter every day; he goes to Germany once a year*; but we have a type of the definite tenses, where, at least in particular cases, I should not hesitate to ascribe to them an iterative function, namely, where a 'point-verb' is defined by a perpetual adverb or the like. — I quote an illustrative example from Western's collections: The great swing-door into the street was *for ever opening and shutting*, or: I remember his wife a great many years ago, when she was *always having children*.

There exists, however, a marked difference between this category of iteration and that first spoken of. In *he writes a letter every day* the iterated phenomena are directly stated as having intervals: this iteration might be described as *distributive* or *analyzing iteration*. The latter category,
represented by 'was for ever opening and shutting' and 'was always having children' I would term comprising or generalizing iteration. The intervals are not dwelt upon: on the contrary, by using the durative form one is brought to ignore them, to feel them as little as possible: such expressions tend rather to convey the meaning of uninterrupted action — in other words, duration. But this is a generalizing on the part of the speaker, an emotional way of putting things: logically seen, we have to do with a series of repeated actions.

On the other hand, we have not, or need not have, to do with iterated actuality here: this instant the swing-door opened, next instant it shut again, and so on; she had a child that year and the year after she had another, etc.

Such cases are not foreign to previous stages of the language. They originate in Old English and occur, though sparingly, also in Middle and Early Modern English.

Sweet (New Engl. Gr. II, § 2232) has this remark: 'The definite present is also used in a future sense, but only in combination with verbs of motion'. — It is however, not only such verbs that occur with this meaning; compare Krüger (Schwierigk. des Engl. II, p. 171) and the examples given there: 'Zuweilen behauptet der Sprechende, er sei schon bei etwas begriffen, das er thatsächlich noch nicht angefangen hat, um den andern des unmittelbar bevorstehenden Erfolgens der Handlung zu versichern; auf diesem Wege wird die progressive Form eine Form, die nahe Zukunft auszudrücken. I really must be getting home. I'll be going my ways now (schottisch). I am coming, ich komme schon, gleich! I must be going now, ich muss jetzt wirklich gehen. What is going to be the upshot of this China affair? She is getting a good husband. We are having a ball next mouth'. — I can add another example: And Banghurst had given ten thousand pounds, and
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further, Banghurst was giving five thousand pounds, — —. (Twelve Stories and a Dream, by H. G. Wells, Macmillan’s Sixpenny Series, London, 1904, p. 5). — As a rule, however, the verbs employed are verbs of motion.

This use of the periphrasis originated in Early Modern English, where verbs of motion, especially come and go, are, so far as I can ascertain, the only verbs to take the periphrasis in this sense of a near futurity.

Of the construction ‘to be going to do something’, the immediate future, the first examples found are in Greene and Shakespeare. — See besides p. 67 1. — I can add here that I have really found two examples with ‘come’: when as I thought I saw him pursued by the whole Body; and now I expected that Part of my Dream was coming to pass, and that he would certainly take Shelter in my Grove; (Def. Rob. 205) and: Ay, master thought another fit of the gout was coming to make him a visit (Sher. Riv. I, 1).

During this period also we find the first cases of that use of the definite tenses which I have termed ‘the subjective feeling’.

The inchoative meaning (see p. 27) has died out with Old English.

In close relation to the character of the definite tenses stands the fact that they cannot, as a rule, be employed with certain verbs which are quite devoid of a durative or progressive element and thus ordinarily serve as timeless copulas, unless they are specially sentence-stressed, so that the idea of time becomes prominent, when they admit of the periphrasis, as well as other verbs under similar circumstances. I shall quote some authors on this point.

Sweet (New Engl. Gr. II, § 2218): ‘There are some

1 And the remark to Sh. As, I, 2, 109 (p. 74).
verbs which occur only in the indefinite tenses. This is especially the case with verbs which express feelings, physical and mental perceptions etc., such as feel, like, think: I feel ill; he likes being here; I think so. But as soon as the element of volition or action becomes prominent, the definite tenses re-assert their rights: compare it hurts with he is hurting him; he doesn’t see it with he is seeing the sights; I hear a noise with I am hearing lectures'.

Krüger (Schwierigk. des Engl. II, p. 171 f.): ‘Zeitwörter, die einmalige schnelle Akte bezeichnen, wie to accept, decline, refuse, reject, pardon, forgive, see, apprehend, obtain, convince, infer, grant, mean, oder solche äussere Zustände schlechthin wie to own besitzen, possess, surround, inclose, oder innere Vorgänge, welche mehr etwas Zuständliches als sich Entwickelndes an sich haben, wie to like, love, be fond of, hate, please, dislike, scorn, detest, abhor, contemn, condemn, envy, grudge, consider (für etwas halten), understand, comprehend, believe, erlauben sie demnach ¹ nicht. Das schliesst nicht aus, dass im gewissen Zusammenhang auch solche Verben sie haben: I can hate; I remember once lying sleepless, when I was hating my enemy the whole night. Sodann findet sie sich noch in folgender Gestalt: By declining the offer you are declining your fortune; hier scheint mir das vorangehende Gerundium die ähnliche Form herbeigeführt zu haben. Doch ist eine Neigung bemerkbar, sie zu gebrauchen, wo wir sie ihrer ursprünglichen Natur nach kaum erwarten: Mr Robertson is offering substantial reward for any information that may be given in regard to the missing boat. But I am forgetting; you will let me order some fresh coffee for you? (Aber ich ver- gesse ja ganz.) Mother will be wondering where we are’.

¹ Mögen es nun äussere oder innere Vorgänge sein, die sie bezeichnenden Verba können die progressive Form haben, sofern der allmähliche Verlauf derselben ausgedrückt werden soll.
Compare also Murray (The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland, p. 220): 'The Present Actual is formed by prefixing the present tense of the verb be to the present participle, as «hey’s gaan’ thruw the wud». But in verbs expressive of sensuous or mental impressions, as sey, heir, fynd, fancie, leyke, heate, also bey, hae, there is only one form for these two senses, as wey sey them een-nuw, an’ wey sey them at aa teymes; with which contrast, thay’re syngan’t een-nuw, an’ thay syng’d at aa teymes’.

On the other hand, it is only natural that the periphrasis should be specially favoured by verbs possessing a durative or progressive meaning, and this has also been the case throughout all the periods of the language.

Thus, although it cannot be denied that the Old English and the Modern English definite tenses exhibit some differences as to their respective syntactical functions, yet it must also be admitted that not only is the fundamental idea the same, but also the main uses in Modern English can be traced back to the Old English period, through an uninterrupted existence during the stages lying between these two extremes. Wherefore, it may be safely inferred that the Modern English periphrasis is really identical with its Old English counterpart.