

## ORTHOGRAPHY.

1. THE English language, with respect to its orthography, has been subject to more or less change ever since its first formation. The spelling of a considerable number of words is still unsettled; and there are some in regard to which it is difficult to determine what orthography is most to be approved.

2. There is a class of words ending in the syllable *or* or *our*, as *favor*, *honor*, or *favour*, *honour*, respecting the orthography of which there is a diversity in usage. It is the prevailing, though by no means the uniform usage, in this country, to spell almost the whole of this class of words without the *u*; as, *favor*, *honor*. Yet the words *enamour* and *tambour* retain the *u*; also the word *saviour* very often, if not commonly. In England about thirty words of this class are written almost always with the *u*; and this is the most considerable difference, with respect to orthography, between the general usage in England and the best usage in this country.

3. A class of words of two or more syllables, which formerly ended in *ick*, as *musick*, *publick*, are now written, both in England and in

America, without the *k*; as, *music*, *public*. But although the verbs *to frolic*, *to mimic*, *to physic*, and *to traffic*, are written without the final *k*, yet on assuming another syllable beginning with *e* or *i*, the *k* is used in order to keep the *c* hard; as, *trafficked*, *trafficking*, *trafficker*.

4. Verbs of one syllable, ending with a single consonant, preceded by a single vowel (as *plan*), and verbs of two or more syllables, ending in the same manner, and having the accent on the last syllable (as *regret*), double the final consonant of the verb, on assuming an additional syllable; as, *plan*, *planned*; *regret*, *regretted*;—but, if a diphthong precedes the last consonant (as *join*), or the accent is not on the last syllable (as *suffer*), the consonant is not doubled; as, *join*, *joined*; *suffer*, *suffered*.

5. There is an exception to the last clause of the preceding rule, with respect to most of the verbs ending in the letter *l*, which, on assuming an additional syllable, are allowed, by general usage, to double the *l*, though the accent is not on the last syllable; as, *travel*, *travelling*, *travelled*, *traveller*; *libel*, *libel-*