

P R E F A C E

IN the present edition a vast number of exercises have been added, that no rule, however trifling, might be left without so many illustrations as should serve to make it sufficiently familiar to the pupil. And when it was feared that the application of any rule to a particular class of cases might not at once suggest itself, some question calculated to remove, or diminish the difficulty has been introduced among the examples.

A considerable space is devoted to the "nature of numbers," and "the principles of notation and numeration : for the teacher may rest assured, that the facility, and even the success, with which subsequent parts of his instruction will be conveyed to the mind of the learner, depends, in a great degree, upon an adequate acquaintance with them. Hence, to proceed without securing a perfect and practical knowledge of this part of the subject, is to retard, rather than to accelerate improvement.

The pupil, from the very commencement, must be made *perfectly* familiar with the terms and signs which are introduced. Of the great utility of technical language (accurately understood) it is almost superfluous to say anything here : we cannot, however, forbear, upon this occasion, recalling to remembrance what is so admirably and so effectively inculcated in the "Easy Lessons on Reasoning." "Even in the common mechanical arts, something of a technical language is found needful for those who are learn-