

It was the original intention of the author to limit the following sketch strictly to the mere philosophy of Grammar, chiefly for the use of teachers and advanced students. Various considerations, however, have induced him to introduce into the work as much as possible of the practical application of the principles of general Grammar to the usages of the English language, and more especially to add, in the shape of an Appendix, a short introduction to the practical rules as commonly taught in schools.

The teacher is recommended in teaching beginners (at least young children) to commence with the Appendix, giving such explanation of the reasons of the different rules as the pupils are capable of receiving. He will find it convenient also to limit himself at first to the three principal parts of speech—the noun, verb, and adjective,—to combine these in easy propositions, with simple explanations of each part, and then to practise them in finding out the several parts.

A great variety of examples of analysis has been introduced, with a view to illustrate as many as possible of the different forms in which words are arranged in sentences, and to exhibit in the strongest light the very general nature of the great principles which constitute the philosophy of Grammar.

It was the writer's intention also to add two chapters, one explaining the numerous peculiar and idiomatic forms of speech in common use, and the other exhibiting and correcting the various incorrect and imperfect or ambiguous modes of expressing the thoughts so commonly heard, but the apprehension of rendering the work too costly for the convenience of the great mass of schools and teachers, rendered the omission of these chapters unavoidable.

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