

PREFACE.

those rules first which are either more easily understood, or which more frequently occur. In arranging a number of rules, it is difficult to please every reader. I have frequently been unable to satisfy myself; and, therefore, cannot expect that the arrangement which I have at last adopted, will give universal satisfaction. Whatever order be preferred, the one rule must necessarily precede the other; and, since they are all to be learned, it signifies but little whether the rules of concord precede those of government, or whether they be mixed, provided no anticipations be made which may embarrass the learner.

For exercises on Syntax, I have not only selected the shortest sentences I could find, but printed the lines *closely* together, with the rules at the bottom, on a small type; and, by these means, have generally compressed as many faulty expressions into a single page, as some of my predecessors have done into two pages of a larger size. Hence, though this book seems to contain but few exercises on bad grammar, it really contains so many, that a separate volume of exercises is quite unnecessary.

Whatever defects were found in the former edition, in the time of teaching, have been carefully supplied.

On Etymology, Syntax, Punctuation, and Prosody, there is scarcely a Rule or Observation in the largest Grammar in print, that is not to be found in this; besides, the Rules and Definitions, in general, are so very short and pointed, that, compared with those in some other Grammars, they may be said to be hit off, rather than made. Every page is independent, and, though quite full, not crowded, but wears an air of neatness and ease invitingly sweet,—a circumstance not unimportant. But, notwithstanding these properties, and others that might be mentioned, I am far from being so vain as to suppose this compilation is altogether free from inaccuracies or defects; much less do I presume that it will obtain the approbation of every one who may choose to peruse it; for, to use the words of Dr. Johnson, “He that has much to do, will do something wrong, and of that wrong must suffer the consequences; and if it were possible that he should always act rightly, yet when such numbers are to judge of his conduct, the bad will censure and obstruct him by malevolence, and the good sometimes by mistake.”

As Those pupils that are capable of WRITING, should be requested to write the PLURAL OF NOUNS, &c., either at home or at school. The Exercises on Syntax should be written in their CORRECTED state, with a stroke drawn UNDER the word corrected.

As K. means Key; the figures refer to the No. of the Key, not the page.