

When such marks are not affixed to these letters, they must be understood to retain their natural and more general sound, as in the words *call*, *house*, *gei*. It must be observed likewise, that in words where *h* is printed in the Italic character, it is not aspirated; and wherever any other letter occurs in that character, its sound is dropped. A circumflex (^) over a vowel denotes a *long* sound, as in *bôlt*.* Where difficulties of irregularities arise, which cannot be thus easily obviated, the scholar is referred to the bottom of the page for a correct pronunciation. The plan itself is doubtless extremely simple. But when the circumstances of those for whom it is professedly designed are considered, this simplicity itself will probably be esteemed a recommendation.

The Author regards the rapid circulation of the preceding editions of this little work as bearing testimony of an extensive approbation among the educators of youth; and he flatters himself that this approbation is founded on a general experience of its utility for the purposes which it professes to serve.

The authorities here principally followed, with regard to orthography, accentuation, and the occasional documents of pronunciation, are the Dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, Sheridan, and Bailey. As to the explanatory matter, that of Bailey, with some exceptions, has been selected; but where a concise or satisfactory exposition of a word could not be obtained, the Author has introduced one of his own.

To the spelling lessons he has added a few particulars necessary for the learner to be acquainted with; such as,

* For the explanation of single accent (') and double accent (') the learner is referred to page 119.