

THE PSALMODY REFORMER.

the right place.

3. The systems of teaching do not commence at the right place.
4. The mode of progression is irregular.
5. The systems of notation are unnecessarily difficult.
6. There are many superfluous modes of time.
7. The excellency of the pendulum time is overlooked.
8. The rules of prosody are erroneous.

1. PHRASEOLOGY. It is difficult if not impossible to impart a true knowledge of any thing without correct language.

Explanations of technical Terms, with occasional Criticisms.

Music, Walker defines, to be the science of harmonical sounds; this does not give the right idea, because music is not science; its theory is a science; Music is the production of melodious, or harmonious sounds. Written music is a figurative expression, it is only the representation of music.

Melody, a succession of pleasing intervals.
 Harmony, two or more parts together, a succession of pleasing intervals, the distance between two successive sounds.

Chord, the distance between two simultaneous sounds. Part, a division of the harmony, either bottom, middle, or top. Base; this word is used in a twofold sense, which often leads to embarrassment; it is used for a kind of voice; also, for a part in harmony; these two distinct ideas should not be expressed by the same word: base means bottom; so, we use the word bottom for the lowest part in harmony; and base for the lowest voice.

Psalmody, sacred vocal music.
 Semibreve, a note to be performed during two motions.
 Minim, a note to be performed in half the time of a minim.
 Crotchet, a note to be performed in half the time of a crotchet.
 Quaver, a note to be performed in half the time of a crotchet.
 Octave; this word, without any variation, has two distinct ideas which makes it difficult to understand; Walker did not understand it, he says it is an interval of eight sounds; this is as unintelligible as a valley of eight hills, or a space of eight lines. Interval means the distance between two sounds; the empty octave means eighth, is an interval of seven degrees: the filled octave means seven seconds ascending, or the same descending.

2. Instrumental rules are applied to vocal music. This is like trying to regulate the sun to suit a timepiece. Instrumental music is natural, and instrumental, is artificial. Instrumental music is justly called an accompaniment to vocal music; yet acknowledges the voice to be the standard; the voice and instrument, have each a different way of coming at the music; many rules for singing are in the instrumental way; so the voice is compelled to try to do what it never was made to do, and never can do alone; which the instrument may do with ease. We