

without the addition of any thing supplied—and the word *consonant*, is from *con* together and *sono* to sound, denoting that the letters so called require the addition of something understood to enunciate them.

*Tutor.* Into what classes, Discipulus, are consonants divided?

*Discip.* Into Mutes and Liquids.

*Tutor.* What are the Liquids, and why are they so called?

*Discip.* They are l, m, n, r, and receive the name, because they readily unite with other consonants.

*Tutor.* Why are the *Mutes* so called?

*Discip.* Because they cannot be sounded without a vowel.

*Tutor.* Which of the consonants is sometimes employed as a vowel?

*Discip.* The consonant w.

*Tutor.* You have answered your questions very distinctly, Discipulus, which gives me much pleasure. I shall expect at our next interview, that you will be able to take the letters individually and describe the different sounds that they have. Is it known, Studens, who was the inventor of alphabetical writing.

*Studens.* No, Sir, and it is a disputed point whether it is to be ascribed to the invention of man. It is supposed to be too noble an invention for the faculties of man, at least in the very early period when alphabetical writing was first employed. I have no hesitation in thinking that it is of divine origin—it is altogether worthy of the Godhead.

*Tutor.* I approve of your sentiments. We have many good arguments in support of it. The Mosaic writings are the earliest specimens of alphabetical writing—and it is evident that Moses wrote