

## EXPLANATION FOR ENGLISH READERS.

It is absolutely necessary for English readers to divest themselves of all the irregular and erroneous notions of spelling contracted by using the imperfect alphabet of the English language, and to remember that, in spelling Seneca, the same sound is uniformly associated with each character. Hence, in writing the language, our first object has been to hear correctly the several sounds of which each word is composed, in their order, and then to represent them by their appropriate characters, placed in the same order. The anomalous sounds of the English are so oddly expressed by combinations of characters, and so many letters are introduced which have no honest relation to the sounds, that most persons find it very difficult to lay aside their bad habits and inconsistencies sufficiently to follow our simple truth-telling system of orthography. But be it always remembered, if the reader will take pains to understand, and is able to enunciate, the sounds represented by the several characters, and will distinctly enunciate them, in the order in which they are located, and with their appropriate relative degrees of force and time, and with the natural cadence and inflexion, he will read the language intelligibly, and—abating the errors of the writer and of the printer—with the same accuracy with which it is spoken by the Indian himself. He may call our mode of representing certain sounds very odd; and, if he will not forget the barbarisms of English spelling, he certainly will do so. But no matter for that: if he will only be content to pronounce his words correctly, as they are made ready to his hands, and no otherwise, he will be a correct, and, if he improve his talent rightly, a profitable reader of Seneca; and we have no fears of his condemning our system, after he shall have thoroughly attained the right use of his ears, by listening attentively to the Indian mode of speaking.