

ETYMOLOGY.

ETYMOLOGY treats of the different sorts of Words, their various modifications, and their derivation.

THERE are nine parts of Speech : Article, Noun, Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Adverb, Preposition, Interjection, and Conjunction.

Of the ARTICLES.

An *Article* is a word put before a noun, to show the extent of its meaning ; as, *a man*.

There are two articles, *a* or *an* and *the*. *A* is used before a consonant.*—*An* is used before a vowel, or silent *h* ; as, *an age*, *an hour*.

Of NOUNS.

A *Noun* is the *name* of any person, place, or thing ; as, *John*, *London*, *book*.

Nouns are varied, by Number, Gender, and Case.

OBSERVATIONS.

* *A* is used before the long sound of *u*, and before *w* and *y* ; as, *A unit*, *a euphony*, *a ewe*, *a week*, *a year*, such a *one*.—*An* is used before words beginning with *h* sounded, when the accent is on the *second* syllable ; as, *An heroic action* ; *an historical account*.

A is called the *indefinite article*, because it does not point out a particular person or thing ; as, *A king* ; that is, *any king*.

The is called the *definite article*, because it refers to a particular person, or thing ; as, *The king* ; that is, the king of our *own* country.

A noun, without an article to limit it, is taken in its widest sense ; as, *Man* is mortal ; namely, *all mankind*.

A is used before nouns in the *singular* number only.—It is used before the plural in nouns preceded by such phrases as, *A few* ; *a great many* ; as, *a few books* ; *a great many apples*.

The is used before nouns in *both* numbers, and sometimes before adverbs in the comparative and superlative degree ; as, *the more* study grammar *the better* I like it.