

PREFACE.

This *Elementary Spelling Book* is designed as an improvement on the *American Spelling Book*, a work whose extensive and increasing circulation manifests the estimation in which it is held by the citizens of the United States. The classification of words in that work has been universally admitted to be a great improvement on all the schemes which had preceded it; and the pronunciation, with few exceptions, is in exact accordance with the best usage both in England and the United States. The classification, however, which was imperfect in that work, is here completed, and the few errors in orthography and pronunciation, which occur in that, are corrected in this work. Indeed the plan of classification here executed is extended so as to comprehend every important variety of English words, and the classes are so arranged, with suitable directions for the pronunciation, that any pupil who shall be master of these *Elementary Tables*, will find little difficulty in learning to form and pronounce any words that properly belong to our vernacular language.

The tables intended for *Exercises* in spelling, and forming words, contain the original words, with the terminations only of their derivatives. These tables will answer the important purposes, of teaching the manner of forming the various derivatives, and the distinctions of the parts of speech, and thus anticipate, in some degree, the knowledge of grammar; at the same time they bring into a small compass a much greater number of words than could be otherwise comprised in so small a book.

The pronunciation here given, is that which is sanctioned by the most general usage of well-bred people both in the United States and in England. This fact is stated from personal knowledge. There are a few words in both countries whose pronunciation is not settled beyond dispute. In cases of this kind, I have leaned to regular analogies, as furnishing the best rule of decision.

There has been, for half a century past, an affection of pronouncing the English *u* as *yu*, in a multitude of words, in which this sound had before been unknown. This innovation resulted in changing *d* before *u* into *y* [grajual]; and *t* into *ch*, as in *nation*. The author went so far as to change *s* into *cy* in