

have acquired some knowledge of numbers at school to make them the more perfect; likewise to such as have completed themselves therein, it will prove, after an impartial perusal, on account of its great variety and brevity, a most agreeable and entertaining exercise-book. I shall not presume to say any thing more in favour of this work, but beg leave to refer the unprejudiced reader to the remark of a certain author,* concerning compositions of this nature. His words are as follows:—

“And now, after all, it is possible that some who like best to tread the old beaten path, and to sweat at their business, when they may do it with pleasure, may start an objection, against the use of this well-intended Assistant, because the course of arithmetic is always the same; and therefore say, that some boys lazily inclined, when they see another at work upon the same question, will be apt to make his operation pass for their own. But these little forgeries are soon detected by the diligence of the tutor: therefore, as different questions to different boys do not in the least promote their improvement, so neither do the questions hinder it. Neither is it in the power of any master (in the course of his business) how full of spirits soever he be, to frame new questions at pleasure in any rule: but the same question will frequently occur in the same rule, notwithstanding his greatest care and skill to the contrary.

“It may also be further objected, that to teach by a printed book is an argument of ignorance and incapacity; which is no less trifling than the former. He, indeed, (if any such there be,) who is afraid his scholars will improve too fast, will, undoubtedly, decry this method: but that master's ignorance can never be brought in question, who can begin and end it readily; and, most certainly, that scholar's non-improvement can be as little questioned, who makes a much greater progress by this, than by the common method.

To enter into a long detail of every rule, would tire the reader, and swell the preface to an unusual length; I shall, therefore, only give a general idea of the method of proceeding, and leave the rest to speak for itself; which I hope the kind reader will find to answer the title, and the recommendation given it. As to the

* Dilworth.