

PREFACE.

Gratitude to the public, as well as a desire to furnish schools with a more complete and well digested system of elements, has induced me to embrace the opportunity when the first patent expires, to revise the work, and give it all the improvement which the experience of many teachers, and my own observations and reflections have suggested. In the execution of this design, care has been taken to preserve the scheme of pronunciation, and the substance of the former work. Most of the tables having stood the test of experience, are considered as susceptible of little improvement or amendment.—A few alterations are made with a view to accommodate the work to the most accurate rules of pronunciation, and most general usage of speaking; as also to correct some errors which had crept into the work. A perfect standard of pronunciation in a living language, is not to be expected; and when the best English Dictionaries differ from each other, in several hundred, probably a thousand words, where are we to seek for undisputed rules? and how can we arrive at perfect uniformity?

The rules respecting accent, prefixed to the former work, are found to be too lengthy and complex, to answer any valuable purpose in a work intended for children; they are therefore omitted. The geographical tables are thrown into a different form; and the abridgement of grammar is omitted. Geography and Grammar are sciences that require distinct treatises, and schools are furnished with them in abundance. It is believed to be more useful to confine this work to its proper objects,—the teaching of the first elements of the language, spelling and reading. On this subject the opinion of many judicious persons concurs with my own.

The improvements made in this work, chiefly consist in a great number of new tables. Some of them are intended to exhibit the manner in which derivative words, and the variations of nouns, adjectives and verbs, are formed. The examples of this sort cannot fail to be very useful; as children, who may be well acquainted with a word in the singular number, or positive degree, may be perplexed when they see it in the plural number, or comparative form. The examples of derivation, will no-