

be compared to nothing but a ship at sea, deprived of sails, rudder, compass, and exposed to the billows and hurricanes of the boisterous deep.

With it, we have a most substantial foundation laid, on which we can erect a superb building, for public and private utility : with it, we can conduct the ship of state, and repose ourselves in perfect safety ; and unshackle ourselves from ignorance, which is the origin of feuds and animosities.

Do not the arts and sciences, in every kingdom, participate to a great degree the fate of its language ? and rise and flourish, or sink into disrepute, as the latter is cultivated or neglected ?

And as grammar is the solid foundation on which all other science rests, and as all human inquiry is divided into science and language ; and further, as under the latter, fall the ideas and subjects of the didactic style, oratory, poetry, painting, and sculpture, judge ye, if it ought to be left to young persons to form their style by chance, or to begin the study of their mother tongue, at a time of life which calls them forth to action.

You, who are entrusted with the education of our youth, and you, who superintend our schools, have a glorious and joyful prospect before you, a noble opportunity indeed of doing much good to mankind ; of constituting real merit, and securing the warmest returns of gratitude, by perfecting the flower of our youth, in speaking and writing that language, in which alone they must act the part of their fathers, serve their country, and become the mouths of the people.



GRAMMAR, A POEM.

GRAMMAR, by proper rules laid down, doth teach
The strict proprieties of ev'ry speech ;
Instructs to speak, or read, with proper grace,
To write correct ; and elegance to trace.