

## 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 *a*, and before *w* and *y*; as, *A* unit, *a* euphony, *a* case, *a* week, *a* year, such *a* case.—*An* is used before words beginning with *a* 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 I study grammar, *the* better I like it.