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PREFACE.

THIS little volume, which is an abstract from the larger Dictionaries of the author, contains a pretty full vocabulary of the common and well-authorized words of the English language. The design has been to exhibit the correct orthography and pronunciation, together with a concise definition of the common words of the language, such as are usually found in the standard works of English literature. But technical terms, and words which are obsolete, provincial, vulgar, or not well authorized, and also a great portion of the compound and derivative words of the language, have been omitted, as not necessary or suitable in a manual of this kind.

With respect to orthography, the purpose has been to give that which is supported by the best usage. Innovations which have no sanction from English usage, or the prevailing and best usage of this country, have been avoided as corruptions of the language.

Great care has been taken to give the pronunciation of the