

The simple sounds, especially those signified by the letters *l*, *r*, *s*, *th*, and *sh*, are often very imperfectly pronounced by young persons. *B* and *p* are apt to be confounded: so are *d* and *t*, *s* and *x*, *f* and *v*. The letters *v* and *w* are often sounded the one for the other: thus, wine is pronounced vine; and vinegar, winegar. The diphthong *ow* is, in some words, vulgarly sounded like *er*: as *fol*ler, *me*ller, *wi*nder; instead of *fol*lo, *me*llow, *wi*ndow. When several consonants, proper to be sounded, occur in the beginning or at the end of words, it is a very common error to omit one of them in pronunciation: as in the words *asps*, *casks*, *guests*, *breadth*, *fifth*, *twelfth*, *strength*, *hearth*s. Not sounding the letter *h*, when it is proper to sound this letter, is a great fault in pronunciation, and very difficult wholly to correct.

When children have acquired any improper habits with respect to simple sounds, the best mode of correction is, to make them frequently repeat words and sentences, in which those sounds occur.—When the simple sounds are thoroughly understood and acquired, the various combinations of them into syllables and words will be easily effected.

II. In order to give spirit and propriety to pronunciation, due attention must be paid to accent, emphasis, and cadence.

When we distinguish a syllable by a greater stress of the voice, it is called *accent*. When we thus distinguish any word in a sentence, it is called *emphasis*.