

ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTION.

1. When we wish to express our thoughts we talk, or we write down certain marks or signs which people have agreed shall stand for the sounds which we utter when we talk. That which we speak with our voice, or which we write to represent what we speak, is called *language*. There are many different languages in the world, as German, French, and Spanish. Ours is called the *English Language*.

2. Language is made up of words. There are over 100,000 words in the English language. A collection of words arranged so as to convey complete sense is called a *sentence*; as—

The cat caught a mouse.

3. The children who use this book know a good deal of the English language. They gained their first knowledge of it by hearing it spoken by others, they have been speaking this language ever since they learned to talk; and they have now a large stock of words, and they know how to put these words together into sentences.

4. Uneducated persons often make mistakes in speaking and writing. They use such expressions as