

## PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

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THE previous editions of this work have been received with so much favour that I have been emboldened to introduce into the present what I hope will be found some considerable improvements. The general plan of the work remains unaltered. The object aimed at has been to take young learners at that stage when they have acquired such elementary ideas on the subject of grammar as may be gained from my "First Notions of Grammar," and to reduce those ideas to regular form by means of careful definitions and plain rules, expressed always in the briefest manner consistent with rigid accuracy, and illustrated by abundant and varied examples for practice. A clearer and more intelligible style of typography has been adopted, and the amount of matter in the text has been slightly increased. In particular the learner's attention has been from time to time directed to the older forms of the language. It is not intended that he should, at first starting, learn these by heart, but by the time he has mastered the rest of the text, he might do this with advantage. No attempt has been made to deal with everything that comes under the head of "English Grammar," or to introduce the young learner to difficulties which he would be incapable of mastering. A superficial discussion of the intricacies of contracted and elliptical sentences is worse than useless, as the knowledge to be derived from it proves valueless