

The Compiler presumes that no objection can properly be made to the phraseology, from an idea that, in books of this kind, the language should be brought down to the level of what is familiar to children. It is indeed indispensable, that our words and phrases should, without requiring much attention and explanation, be intelligible to young persons; but it will scarcely be controverted, that it is better to lead them forward, and improve their language by proper examples, than to exhibit such as will confirm them in a feeble and puerile mode of expression. Children have language, as well as other things, to learn and cultivate; and if good models are set before them, instruction and diligence will soon make them understood, and habit will render them familiar and pleasing. Perhaps there is no method by which this advantage may, in general, be more readily and effectually produced, than by accustoming children to commit to memory, sentences in which the words are properly chosen, and the construction and arrangement correct. This was one object which the Compiler had in view, when he composed the Grammar of which this is an epitome; and he hopes that he has not altogether failed in his endeavours to attain it. But on this point, or on any other part of the work, it belongs not to him to determine; the whole must be referred to the decision of the impartial and judicious reader.

HOLDGATE, near York, 1797.