

## ETYMOLOGY.

ETYMOLOGY *treats of the different sorts of Words, their various modifications, and their derivation.*

THERE are nine parts of Speech; Article, Noun, Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Adverb, Preposition, Interjection, and Conjunction.

*Of the ARTICLES.*

An *Article* is a word put before a noun, to show the extent of its meaning; as, *a man*.

There are two articles, *a* or *an* and *the*. *A* is used before a consonant.\*—*An* is used before a vowel, or silent *h*; as, *an* age, *an* hour.

*Of NOUNS.*

A *Noun* is the *name* of any person, place, or thing; as, *John, London, book*.

Nouns are varied, by Number, Gender, and Case.

## OBSERVATIONS.

*A* is called the *indefinite* article, because it does not point out a particular person or thing; as, *A* king; that is, *any* king.

*The* is called the *definite* article, because it refers to a particular person or thing; as, *The* king; that is, the king of our *own* country.

A noun, without an article to limit it, is taken in its widest sense; as, *Man* is mortal; namely, *all mankind*.

*A* is used before nouns in the *singular* number only.—It is used before the plural in nouns preceded by such phrases as, *A few*; *a great many*; as, *a few* books; *a great many* apples.

*The* is used before nouns in *both* numbers: and sometimes before adverbs in the comparative and superlative degree; as, *the more* I study grammar *the better* I like it.

\* *A* is used before the long sound of *u*, and before *w* and *y*; as, *A* unit, a *euphony*, a *ewe*, a *week*, a *year*, such a *one*.—*An* is used before words beginning with *h* sounded, when the accent is on the *second* syllable; as, *An* heroic action; *an* historical account.