

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 cushion*, *a ewe*, *a week*, *a year*, such a *one*.—*An* is used before beginning with *A* sounded, when the accent is on the second syllable; as, *an heroic action*; *an historical account*.