

discussion of the principles involved in arithmetical operations, the attention of the more advanced student is respectfully directed to the author's *National Arithmetic*.

With respect to the arrangement, a few words will suffice. In commencing the *Elementary* the pupil is assumed to have no previous knowledge of arithmetic, and accordingly great care has been expended in wording the definitions, explanations, rules, &c., as concisely as possible, and in making preliminary problems of the very easiest description. The author has also endeavored, at those parts of the subject at which the pupil invariably meets with more or less trouble and difficulty, to prepare him for the consideration of the rule and the solution of problems on the slate by a series of simple mental exercises. It is not for a moment presumed that these mental exercises contain all that is necessary in the way of preparation: they are rather designed to serve as a *sample* of the introductory drilling through which the class should enter the rule. The judicious teacher will continue some such exercise as a mental training until he is convinced that his pupils can enter into the solution of questions on the slate without any such miserable artifices as the attempt to aid their ability to add or subtract by counting on their fingers or on the notches cut in their slate frames.

The teacher is earnestly recommended to begin, at as early a period as practicable, drilling the pupils on the *Mental Arithmetic* at the end of the book. He will find it the most efficient of all means for calling forth and cultivating the intellectual faculties of his scholars, and at the same time the most unfailing and successful mode of making them thoroughly comprehend the principles of written arithmetic. Although the mental exercises alluded to contain a large number of problems, it is taken for granted the teacher will not confine his class to these, but will from time to time supply them with similar questions of his own construction.

The problems throughout the book are all new, and no pains have been spared in reading the proof-sheets to ensure the most rigid accuracy in every part.

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