FIRST LESSONS
IN
ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION,
WITH
EXERCISES
IN THE
ELEMENTS OF PRONUNCIATION, WORDS FOR DICTION,
AND SUBJECTS FOR COMPOSITION.

BY ELIZABETH ORAM.

"Let no one despise as inconsiderable the elements of Grammar, because it may seem to them a matter of small importance, to show the difference between vowels and consonants, and make children acquainted with their organic construction. Those who penetrate into the innermost parts of this temple of science, will there discern much subtilty and refinement."

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PREFACE.

Children are everywhere taught, that they see with their eyes, hear with their ears, &c. Philosophers have made the structure of these organs the subjects of investigation, and they are presented as objects of study to the young; but how few know anything about the organization of the human voice! of that machinery that makes the soul visible, and which forms the most distinguishing characteristic of man!

Children not only may, but ought to be taught, how they do that which is required of them, and that they may understand how they speak, as well as what they speak, these exercises have been prepared.

The Grammar is an abstract from the best authorities, according to "present national and reputable use" of those rules or principles which lie at the foundation of the structure of our language, and which may be easily comprehended by pupils.

The lessons for "Dictation and Grammatical Analysis," form interesting reading lessons, while the exercises in the elements of Pronunciation, and subjects for Composition, give the orthography of over ten thousand of the most important words in the English language, divided and accentuated according to the most approved standards.
PREFACE.

The Analysis and Classification of the Alphabet is new: it is arranged, according to the organic construction of the English Language.

By this, it will be seen, that the radical vowel sounds, are only three, and the radical consonant sounds seven, making altogether ten primitive sounds, which enter into the composition of all the other sounds of the language.

The value of this Analysis and Classification for mechanical associations will be seen, by those who can use it for that purpose.

The uniform sounds, according to the one given in the lesson which precedes it, are generally placed at the commencement of the words, of which that sound makes a part, and exhibit the Elements of the Language, in a more simple form, than as the author believes, has ever been given.

A few of the words are unaccented; the proper placing of the accents belonging to them will serve, as a new and useful exercise for young people.

Years of experience have taught, that Children can only be made acquainted with Language, by first teaching them, thoroughly, the elements of it, and then combining these according to acknowledged laws.

The whole Book is intended to be written and studied by the Pupil, (divided into such portions as may be deemed expedient,) after the Dictation and Oral explanation of the Teacher; and if it make plain and interesting, a generally abstruse and dry subject, and form a manual that shall aid beginners in acquiring the elements of their own language, one great object of the Author will be obtained.

New York, 1846.

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An articulate sound is the sound of the human voice, formed by the organs of speech.

Speech is made up of articulate sounds, and what we call articulation is performed by the action of the throat, palate, teeth, tongue, and lips.

A letter is the first principle; or least part of a word.

The letters of the English language, called the English Alphabet, are 26 in number.

The simplest articulate voices, or sounds, are those which proceed from an open mouth, without any alteration in the position, or any motion of the organs of speech, from the moment the sound commences, until it ends: as E, A, O, which are pure vowel sounds.

When these sounds, in passing through the mouth, are interrupted or intercepted, a consonant, or sound with another sound, is formed: as, es, ad, on, &c.

P and B are formed by closing the lips, until the breath is collected, and then letting it issue, by forming e: as, be, pe.

F and V are formed by pressing the upper teeth upon the under lip, and sounding the vowel e before the former, and after the latter: as, ef, ee.
They believe in the existence of a Great Spirit, or a Supreme Ruler over all; in the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments. But they, with all this, are exceedingly superstitious; believing in the existence of inferior deities, and frequently sacrificing to them.

QUESTIONS UPON THE LESSONS.

Which of the words contain the second sound of I?
How many numbers have nouns?
Which of the nouns are singular?
Which of the nouns are plural?
Which of the nouns are of the second person?
Which of the nouns are of the third person?

Words containing the second sound of I: or,

Exercises in the Elements of Pronunciation, with Words for Dictation and Subjects for Composition.

- id-i-o-syn-cre-sy
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sion
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sible
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sible-ly
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sy
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sy
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sy
- id-i-o-syn-cre-sy
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