

# P R E F A C E.

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**T**HE English language has received great improvement in the course of the present century, from the meritorious labours of many eminent philologists. The indefatigable lexicographer and critical grammarian, have each in their turn, generously enlightened the literary world with their elaborate productions, no doubt hoping they would meet with a candid reception, and prove an advantageous assistant and faithful guide to the knowledge of the analysis and practical construction of our language.

Many writers of spelling books, have also contributed laudable performances for the introduction of youth to the rudiments of the English language; but these performances have their respective imperfections. The ancient compilations on this subject, could not be properly fitted to the present state of the language, which has suffered many remarkable changes since their appearance.

The modern productions on this subject, are arranged mostly upon the old plan, with some recent interpolations and amendments which the present refinement of the language would evidently suggest.

These late authors of spelling books, have in general been gentlemen in stations of life which could not afford them an opportunity of experience in teaching, nor a proper acquaintance with the capacities of children beginning to learn; consequently their knowledge of the subject could only be theoretical: this their books testify, for they are crowded with long perplexing introductions, preliminary keys and speculative directions, which no child entering the spelling book, can either read or understand; besides, in the matter of their books they have continued tables of a kind, both in spelling and reading, to such a toilsome length, that the young scholar is both wearied and discouraged before he can perform the disagreeable task of going over them once. They have not

T H E  
P H I L A D E L P H I A  
S P E L L I N G B O O K

ARRANGED UPON A PLAN ENTIRELY NEW,  
ADAPTED TO THE CAPACITIES OF CHILDREN,  
AND DESIGNED

AS AN IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT IN  
S P E L L I N G AND READING

T H E

E N G L I S H L A N G U A G E .

The whole being recommended by several eminent Teachers, as the most useful performance to expedite the instruction of youth.

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BY JOHN BARRY, *Master of the Free School of the Protestant Episcopal Church.*

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PREFACE

considered, that simplicity, joined to variety, is most pleasing to the tender mind. Experience teaches us that children are naturally fond of change even in their amusements, and we may daily observe how acceptable variety is to them in their puerile recreations. The embarrassments contained in the spelling books hitherto published, together with a long course of practice in teaching, and minute observations of the capacities and propensities of children, induced me to attempt a new arrangement of a book calculated as nearly to the understanding of children, as repeated trial joined with immediate improvement and speedy progress, did evidently ascertain. How far my plan may be acceptable to the public and teachers in general, practical experience of the book must determine: however this may be, great pains have been taken in arranging the lessons gradually, as the understanding and judgment of the children under my inspection seemed to increase.

The lessons are short, and change alternately from spelling to reading, and some of the lessons in spelling not divided, but left as an exercise for the young pupil's abilities. The reading between the spelling lessons in each page, is mostly new, and carefully chosen, both with respect to graceful language and moral subjects. Many words are admitted, particularly in the monosyllables, which may appear strange or obsolete, but let it be observed they have been used for the sake of accommodation, and are all to be found in Ash's valuable dictionary. Punctuation, in a short and comprehensive manner, is inserted; and several useful things from other books on the subject have been retained. The necessary tables of arithmetic are also added: with a copious number of select lessons, from the best authors, and on subjects most suitable, are placed at the latter end of the book.

To render the book more extensively useful, it was thought adviseable to fit it in some degree, upon the plan of Sheridan's pronouncing dictionary. This has been done in all the tables of monosyllables, with respect to sound, and in the other tables of syllables, with respect to division, and still farther, through all the spelling, the silent letters are printed in Italic characters, as nearly as convenience would permit. But still it is expected some words have escaped the printer's correction. It was also deemed unnecessary to add an

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REVISED EDITION

# SPELLING BOOK

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

AND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CHILDREN

BY

JOHN B. ALLEN

NEW YORK

1854

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The whole being arranged in a systematic and progressive manner, so that the pupil may acquire a correct and rapid method of spelling, and a knowledge of the principles of orthography.

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