INTRODUCTION TO THE GRADUAL READER; OR, PRIMARY SCHOOL ENUNCIATOR. PART II. THE CHILD'S SECOND STEP

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Introduction to the Gradual Reader; Or, Primary School Enunciator. Part II. The Child's Second Step by David B. Tower

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DAVID B. TOWER

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INTRODUCTION

TO THE

GRADUAL READER:

OR,

PRIMARY SCHOOL ENUNCIATOR,

PART II.

THE CHILD'S SECOND STEP.

TAKEN AT THE RIGHT TIME.

Br DAVID B. TOWER, A. M.,

Formerly Principal of the Elist Grammer School, Beston; late Principal of
the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blindy Author
of "Intellectual Algebra, or Oral Lessons in Algebra, for
Common Schools;" "Gradual Primer, or Primary
School Enunciator, Part L;" "Gradual
Blander;" and "Gradual Spotter, or
Complete Enunciator."

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PREFACE.

In the "Gradual Primer, or Primary School Enunciator, Part I.," separate exercises were given on each of the elementary sounds, with words and sentences exemplifying the same, that, by taking one thing at a time, the pupil might be gradually made familiar with all those sounds. Directions were also given for attaining the correct utterance of each element. This book is a continuation of the plan, with alternate Lessons in Enunciation and Reading, progressively arranged. Each consonant combination is considered, and illustrated, first by single words, and then by those words in sentences.

It is a peculiar feature of this Series of Readers, that only one thing is required to be taught at a time; thus the Exercises in Articulation are kept entirely separate from the Reading Lessons, that the pupil may be drilled in the former solely with reference to attaining a distinct and correct utterance. This, experience has shown to be absolutely essential to satisfactory progress. This atrangement enables the teacher to turn at once to any combination which is imperfectly uttered, and to apply the remedy by exercise on the particular lesson which illustrates it.

Another peculiarity of this Series is the introduction of Tables for the simultaneous Review of all the Elements and their Combinations — an exercise highly commended by teachers, as productive of the most useful results.

Separate lessons, illustrated by examples, are also given on each of the stops and marks, as the best method of giving instruction therein. Besides, lessons are introduced to familiarize the pupils with the slides or inflections of the voice, with directions for the use of the same.

In the Reading Lessons, references are made to the sections on Enunciation, and a few errors pointed out, to call the attention of the pupil to the subject, and to aid him while preparing his lesson at home.

The pupil should go through with a lesson in enunciation with the sole view of straining distinctness, clearness, and force in his utterance of the combined elements under consideration. These lessons are intended to serve as gymnastic exercises for the cultivation of the voice, and for the gradual development and training of the organs of speech. This is the mechanical part of reading, and it should be attended to by itself.

When a reading lesson is under consideration, the meaning, the thought, and the sentiment, and how best to convey them to the hearer, are the only proper subjects of attention. These great points will be sadly neglected, if the teacher must stop his papil in the midst of a sentence to tinker words, and to carry on a popgun warfare against misshapen sounds. It is not only necessary to teach one thing at a time, but to do it at the proper time, and in the right place.

No experienced teacher would wish to see an element or stuck at the head of a reading lesson, to be either entirely neglected, or else to baunt the pupil all through the piece, to the expulsion of the thought and sentiment. Such a course would make a mere machine of any child. All the beauties of thought and expression in language would thus be marred by a useless effort to mend words and patch sounds, — useless because ill-timed and out of place.

Let the Lessons in Enunciation and the Tables be used to drill and perfect the pupil in articulation. They will afford ample exercise in all that pertains to mechanical ntterance. Let the notes and references be used by the pupil only in preparing his Reading Lesson; or by the teacher in keeping her own attention alive to the importance of the subject.

But let the Kending Lessons be viewed and used as such merely. Let the meaning of each lesson be fully understood by the pupil, and let it be conveyed by his voice as he best can, after all the explanation and aid which his teacher can give. It is better to delay several days on one lesson, than to pass over it hastily, before it is fully comprehended, and before it can be read well.

When a pupil is unable to give correct and appropriate utterance to any combination, turn, at a suitable time, to the proper lesson for eradicating this fault, and give him the requisite drilling to do it. It will be found a very useful exercise, to take a class, or the whole school at once, through some one of the Tables, for the review of the more common combinations.

The Reading Lessons have been prepared with a desire to elevate the thoughts and feelings of the pupil, as well as to interest and instruct him. When selections have been made, the compiler has taken the liberty of altering to suit the design of the book.

Reading books are already sufficiently numerous; but the author consoles bimself with the thought that, where this Series is used, both teacher and pupil will escape the difficult task of unlearning, before the first onward step can be taken.

D. B. T.

PARK STREET BOSTON, June, 1846.

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