

**A GRAMMAR OF ELOCUTION:
IN WHICH THE FIVE
ACCIDENTS OF SPEECH ARE
EXPLAINED AND ILLUSTRATED**

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A Grammar of Elocution: In Which the Five Accidents of Speech Are Explained and Illustrated
by Samuel Wood

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SAMUEL WOOD

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A
GRAMMAR OF ELOCUTION.

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IN WHICH
THE FIVE ACCIDENTS OF SPEECH ARE EXPLAINED
AND ILLUSTRATED;

AND RULES GIVEN,
BY WHICH A JUST AND GRACEFUL MANNER OF DELIVERY
MAY BE EASILY ACQUIRED.

BY
THE REV. SAMUEL WOOD, B. A.

“Art is but Nature better understood.”—POPE.

SECOND EDITION.

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UPPER GOWER STREET.

MDCCCXXXIII.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE want of a good work on Elocution has long been felt. The best which we possess, is *Walker's Elements*; but in many parts it is very defective, and it is so diffuse and so voluminous, that few students have patience sufficient to endure its prolixity, for the sake of the really valuable matter which it contains. Mr. Walker was the first who developed an important principle; and it was to be expected that, in illustrating the application of his theory, he would be led into discussions, which they who come after him, and who take his principles for granted, have no occasion to repeat. His *Elements* is a most valuable treatise, but in order to make it useful in a practical view, it is necessary that its redundancies should be curtailed, that its style should be compressed, that its principles should be more fully developed, and its omissions supplied. This is what the Author of the present work has endeavoured to do; he has taken the *Elements* as his basis, and has supplied from other sources the matter in which they are deficient. Mr. Walker evidently did not understand the subject of Rhythm; this part, therefore, has been supplied from *Steele's Prosa-*

dia Rationalis, and *Chapman's Rhythmical Grammar* and *Music and Melody of the English Language*. To these works the Author is indebted for all that he has thought it necessary to say respecting Quantity and Rhythm, and he would recommend them to the attention of those who wish to enter more deeply into the subject.

For many valuable suggestions in various parts of his work the Author has also to acknowledge his obligations to John M. Vandenhoff, Esq., of Liverpool, whose exquisite reading in private is equalled only by his striking representation of character and passion on the stage.

32, UNIVERSITY STREET, LONDON,
March 25th, 1833.

In this Second Edition some corrections are made, and some new illustrations introduced; but no essential principle of the first edition is touched.

November 18th, 1833.

* * * *Mr. Wood's Terms for Tuition may be known, by applying at Mr. Taylor's, Upper Gower Street.*

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 16, line 14, for *deserved* read *deserve*.

Page 19, line 7 from bottom, dele "*the preposition*."

Page 120, note, for 96 read 97.

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ELOCUTION, AND THE NECESSITY OF STUDYING IT AS AN ART.

THAT a good Elocution is a highly useful accomplishment, is a truth too obvious to require any labour-ed proof. Every one must acknowledge it to be desirable that whatever be read or spoken should not only be barely understood, but conveyed with its full force and spirit to those to whom it is addressed. The object of all public speaking is either instruction or persuasion, or both; and it is certain that these objects will be but imperfectly accomplished, by him whose enunciation is hurried and indistinct, whose tone is monotonous, or whose gesture is awkward and inappropriate. We are always pleased with the speaker whose manner of delivery is just and graceful, though his matter be of little weight; and we are equally wearied with him whose manner is faulty and unnatural, though his matter may be fitted to instruct or to convince us.

But, although the importance of a good elocution is generally acknowledged, this accomplishment is seldom