# A PRACTICAL GRAMMAR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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A Practical Grammar of the English Language by T. Weedon

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## T. WEEDON

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Trieste

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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE,

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T. WEEDON.

" Grammar teacheth us to speak correctly : Rhetoric teaches us to speak elegantly."

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1848.



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#### THOMAS HARBILD, PRINTER, SILVER STREET, PALCON OQUARE.

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### PREFACE.

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In laying before the public this little Treatise, it is needful to preface it with a few introductory remarks, in order that the purpose for which it is intended, may not be mistaken.

It is not a "GENERAL" GRAMMAR, making a philosophical inquiry into the origin of language, and into the improvements which have taken place in it, as well as into the derivation of words, and the abbreviations which they have undergone. It is a "PARTICULAR" GRAMMAR, a Grammar of the English Language; and, treating each word of that language as having the signification, which among Englishmen it is understood to have, is intended to teach the

#### PREFACE.

mode of using them, thereby to express ideas correctly.

It is not a Class-Book, not a book adapted to teach from: it is a book for those who read and think, a book to learn by; and, is designed for the use of those persons who have. not been taught Grammar, as well as of those who have been educated at schools, in which the scholars are left to acquire their knowledge of the English Language through the Latin Grammar. This practice is very general, and the consequences of it are made apparent by the very incorrect and ambiguous manner in which many persons, who have been "welleducated," express themselves.

It is not said, that perusing this book will make any one speak and write correctly; but any one who reads it attentively, will be induced to think; and THOUGHT will produce that result.

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#### INTRODUCTION.

MURBAY says, " Grammar CAP. 1. is the art of speaking and writing correctly." If Grammar be that which he says it is, Grammarians, who are practised in the art, ought to speak and write correctly; but, Locke says, "Men, speaking a language according to the Grammar-rules of that language, do yet speak imperfectly of things." And Locke is right; for Grammar is not that which Murray describes it to be : Grammar is not an art, it is the science by which a man, who reflects, is enabled so to use language, as to make it express correctly his ideas, which he never can do by arranging it according to rules, alone, without reflection, as may be shown by numerous examples from the works of our best authors. Thought is required : a man must think whether the words he uses convey the meaning he intends them to bear.

2. Although a knowledge of the rules of Grammar

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