

A persuasion that something might yet be done, to reconcile Parents and Teachers to that plan of education which reason has pointed out, has given birth to the following Compilation. In drawing it up, the

“ ply himself with great advantage to the study of any
 “ other. To enter at once upon the Science of Gram-
 “ mar, and the study of a foreign Language, is to en-
 “ counter two difficulties together, each of which would
 “ be much lessened by being taken separately and in its
 “ proper order. For these plain reasons, a competent
 “ grammatical knowledge of our own language is the
 “ true foundation, upon which all Literature, properly
 “ so called, ought to be raised. If this method were
 “ adopted in our Schools; if children were first taught
 “ the common principles of Grammar, by some short
 “ and clear System of English Grammar, which happily
 “ by its simplicity and facility is perhaps fitter than that
 “ of any other language for such a purpose; they would
 “ have some notion of what they were going about,
 “ when they should enter into the Latin Grammar;
 “ and would hardly be engaged so many years, as they
 “ now are, in that most irksome and difficult part of
 “ literature, with so much labour of the memory, and
 “ with so little assistance of the understanding.”

Compiler has availed himself of every thing he could find, suited to his purpose, in productions of the same kind; although, upon perusal, it will appear, that a very considerable, and, it is presumed, not the least useful proportion, both of examples and corrections, is entirely his own.

In the department of *Scotticisms*, he has judged it proper, for obvious reasons, altogether to omit those numberless uncouth Vulgarisms which are peculiar to the lower class of people in Scotland. He has confined himself to such colloquial words and phrases, as prevail among the middle class, and, into which, through inadvertence, even those who have had a liberal education, are sometimes apt to fall.

This Collection was designed chiefly as a *Supplement* to the English Grammars which are taught in Scotland; and, therefore, to peruse it with advantage, presupposes a competent knowledge, at least, of the principles of Grammar. Vulgar words and phrases must be known to be so before they

can be avoided; and the Compiler has long been of opinion, that a copious and well selected list of such words and phrases with their corrections, either prefixed or subjoined to English Grammars, would, in this country, be a great improvement.

To those Teachers who may chuse to introduce this Collection into their Schools, he takes the liberty of recommending the following manner of using it. In the first course, boys might confine themselves entirely to the *Scotticisms* and *Vulgar Anglicisms*; and in the last, they might pass over these, and confine themselves entirely to the *Grammatical Improproprieties*. This might be done once or twice every week, without interfering materially with their other studies. It would be an agreeable and useful variety; and, under the conduct of skilful Teachers, boys might become tolerable proficient in the course of four and twenty or thirty lessons.

Those whose leisure permits and whose inclination leads them to cultivate this

branch of Literature, will, no doubt, discover several mistakes and inaccuracies, which, though obvious to them, may yet have escaped the Compiler's observation. The friendly communications of such men, respecting either the plan or the execution of the following little work, will be thankfully received and carefully attended to.