THE INFANT'S GRAMMAR,

OR A

Pic-nic Party

OF THE

PARTS OF SPEECH.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HARRIS AND SON,

CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

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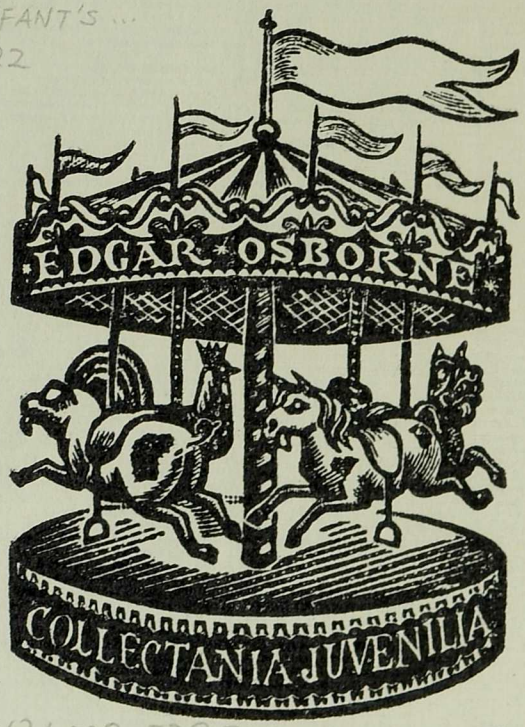
1822



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Printed by S. and R. Bentley,
Dorset-street, Fleet-street, London.

INTRODUCTION.

One day, I am told, and, as it was cold,
I suppose it occurr'd in cold weather,
The NINE PARTS OF SPEECH, having no one to teach,
Resolv'd on a PIC-NIC together.

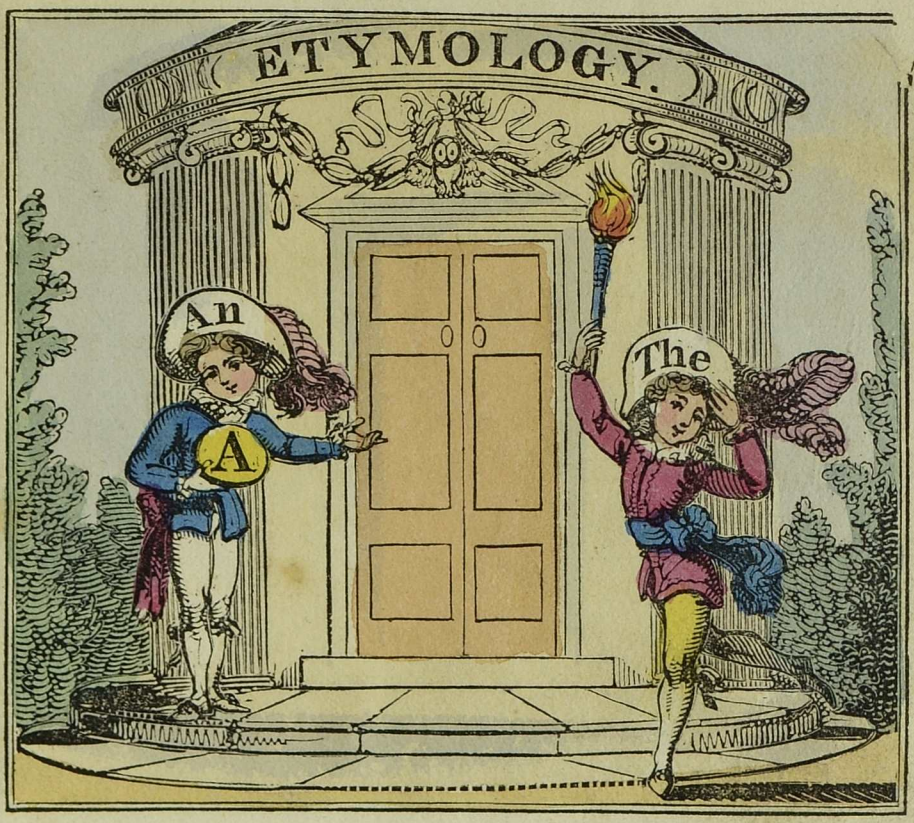
The ARTICLE mov'd, and the PRONOUN approv'd
That the NOUN should preside at the feast;
But the ADJECTIVE said, though the Noun might be head,
The VERB should be none of the least.

The ADVERB cried out, "PREPOSITION, no doubt,
Will sit at one end of the table:"
CONJUNCTION replied, "Let us sit side by side,
And let him act as Vice* who is able."

INTERJECTION said "PISH! Let me have but a dish,
And a look at your good-humour'd faces;—
Then they who think fit may exert all their wit,
To make a selection of places."

Now loud was the call,—ETYMOLOGY-HALL!
Run, ARTICLE;—SUBSTANTIVE, run:
My Reader, run too; and perhaps you may view
Some scenes full of innocent fun.

* Vice-president.

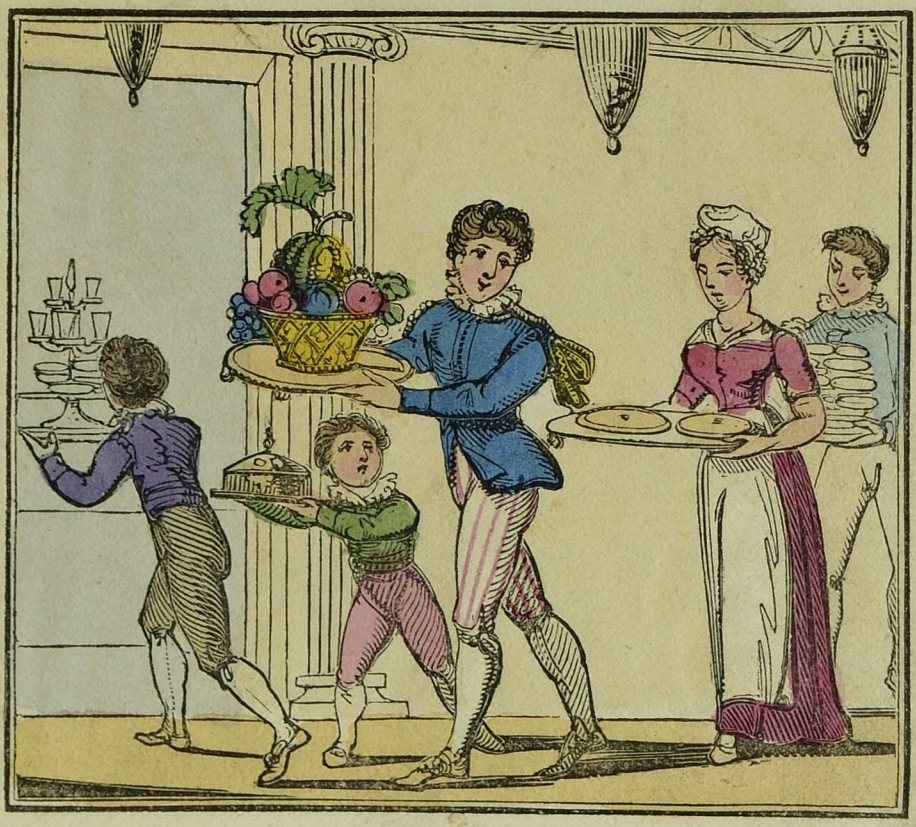


THE ARTICLES.

An A and a THE, two ARTICLES small,
Had on their best clothes, to attend at THE Ball;
Like two little lackeys they stood at the door,
That, when the Nouns came, they might run in before:
The temple was wrapp'd in the shadows of night,
But the torch of young DEFINITE gave a clear light.

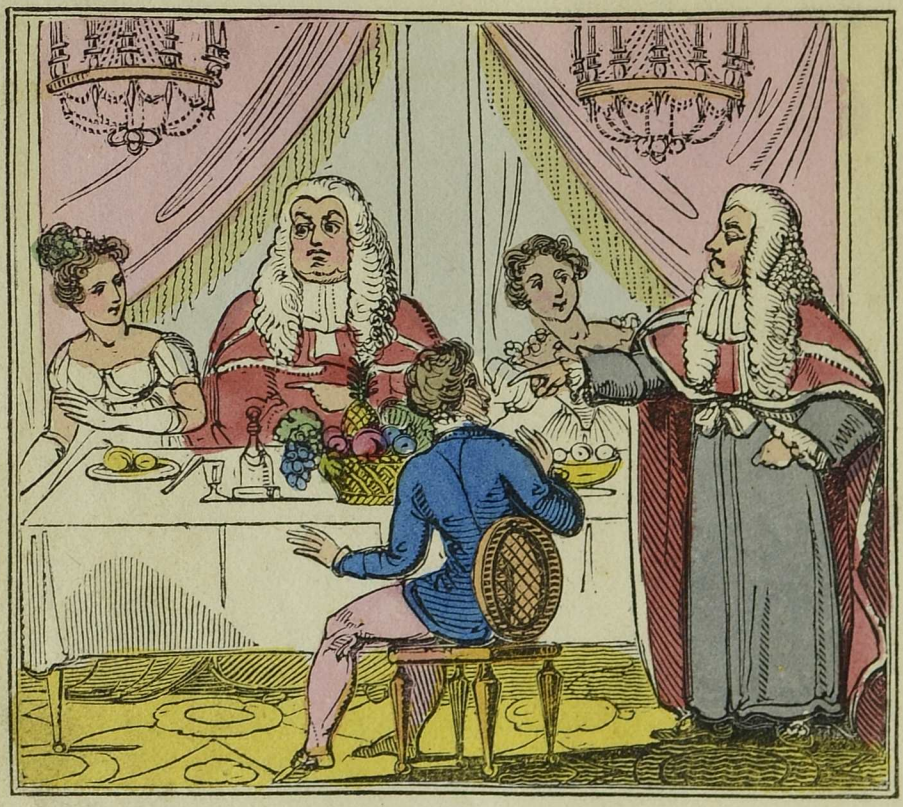
THE NOUNS, OR SUBSTANTIVES.

The tribe of great NOUNS, whom we SUBSTANTIVES call,
Although it was numerous, came one and all.
There were MR. and MRS., MISS KITTY and SUE,
With ANNA-MATILDA, MARIA, and PRUE.
MASTERS HENRY and WILLIAM, and THOMAS and NICK,
And, trundling his HOOP, too, in came little DICK.
These were all of the FAMILY proper; but then
There came such a NUMBER of BOYS, MAIDS, and MEN,
And such common PEOPLE, who brought in the FARE!
What a LOT of PLUMS, APPLES, and SWEETMEATS was there!



NOUNS COMMON.

Some borne upon TRAYS, some in PLATES, some in DISHES;
With all KINDS of POULTRY, of GAME, and of FISHES;
Next follow'd POTATOES, GREENS, TURNIPS, and CARROTS,
And they brought in, alive, SQUIRRELS, LAP-DOGS, and PARROTS;
Nay, if the whole WORLD could have pass'd through the DOOR,
I verily think they 'd have brought it, and more.
In truth, every THING in the EARTH, SEA, or AIR,
Belongs to the NOUN, though the whole was not there.



THE ADJECTIVES.

Next the ADJECTIVES came, with grave, solemn faces,
And wigs like the judges:—they soon took their places
Before the great Nouns, and turn'd round with a sneer
To tell what their virtues and qualities were.
Some were GOOD, some were BAD, some PRETTY, some MILD,
Some were MODEST, some IMPUDENT, WICKED, and WILD;
And they even pass'd judgment on things brought to eat,
Said some were DELICIOUS, some SOUR, and some SWEET.

THE PRONOUNS.

At this moment a bustle was heard at the door
From a party of PRONOUNS, who came by the score.
And what do you think? Why I vow and declare
THEY would pass for the Nouns who already were there.
And THEIR boldness was such, as I live IT is true,
ONE declar'd HE was I, and ONE call'd HIMSELF YOU.
THIS, THAT, and the OTHER, THEY claim'd as THEIR own,
But WHO THEY are really, will shortly be known.

THE VERBS.

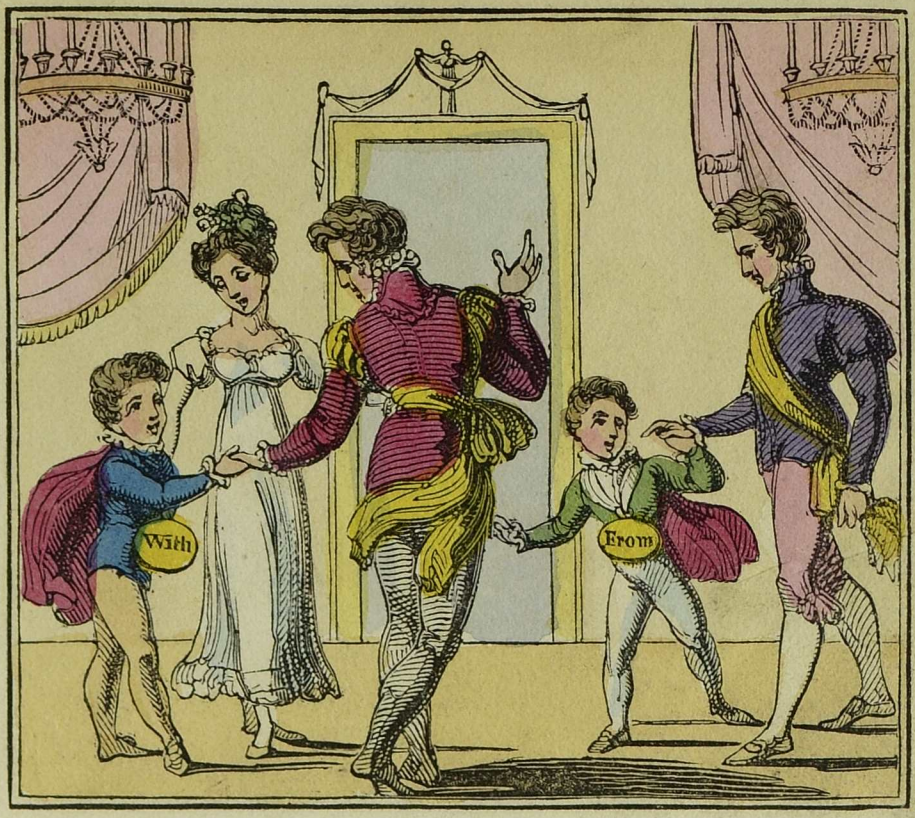
Some Actors of eminence made their appearance,
And the servants, Nouns common, with speed made a clearance
Of tables, chairs, stools, and such moveable things,
As, wherever it goes, the Noun always brings.
And these actors the VERBS, when they'd room to DISPLAY,
Both WRESTLED, and TUMBLED, and GAMBOL'D away;
They PLAY'D and they RAN, they JUMP'D and they DANC'D,
FRISK'D, AMBLED, and KICK'D, LAUGH'D, CHATTER'D, and PRANC'D.

VERBS ACTIVE AND PASSIVE.

The company, laughing, now stood up in ranks,
Whilst the ACTIVE VERBS play'd on the PASSIVE their pranks.
But some were so lazy they SLEPT on the floor,
And some were so stupid they STOOD by the door.
In short, all the actions that mortals can DO,
Were DONE by these VERBS, and ENDUR'D by them too.

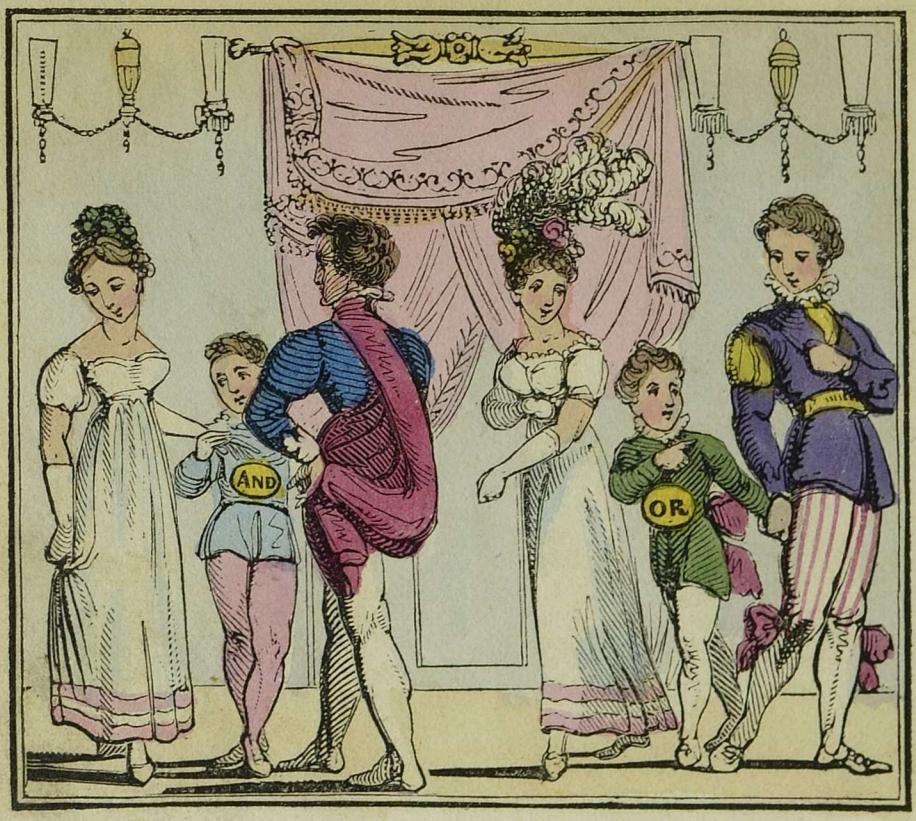
THE ADVERBS.

And these had attendants, called ADVERBS by name:
To teach the Verbs proper behaviour they came.
They told them how they might more GRACEFULLY dance,
More QUICKLY might run, or more MERRILY prance;
They rous'd those that LAZILY slept on the floor,
Made others, more MANNERLY, move from the door;
And told how they YESTERDAY languish'd in sorrow,
Though so merry TO-DAY, and might still be TO-MORROW.



THE PREPOSITIONS.

PREPOSITIONS were busy: they ran in between,
And with Substantives, Pronouns, and Verbs they were seen,
Holding one IN each hand, thus together TO bind,
AT, BY, FOR, EXCEPT, SINCE, AFTER, BEHIND;
WITH THROUGH, BESIDES, INTO, AGAINST, OF, ABOUT,
AMONG, ON, ABOVE, WITHIN, and WITHOUT.



THE CONJUNCTIONS.

The useful CONJUNCTIONS now came at a call,
To superintend the concerns of the Ball,
AND these soon began to join Nouns with each other,
THOUGH 'tis not the fashion to dance with a brother.
The sentences, too, they united together,
With an AND and an OR,—BUT I ought to say rather
The latter disjoin'd them, by coming between;
For then back to back were the sentences seen:
NOTWITHSTANDING the CONS would insist on uniting,
THOUGH to turn from your partner appears rather slighting.

THE INTERJECTION.

Having finish'd their Pic-nic, without much apology
The party all quitted the hall Etymology;
But such litter was scatter'd about in the room,
That, when INTERJECTION came up with her broom,
Her surprise was so great that she nothing could say,
But, O! AH! ALAS! GOOD LACK! WELL-A-DAY!

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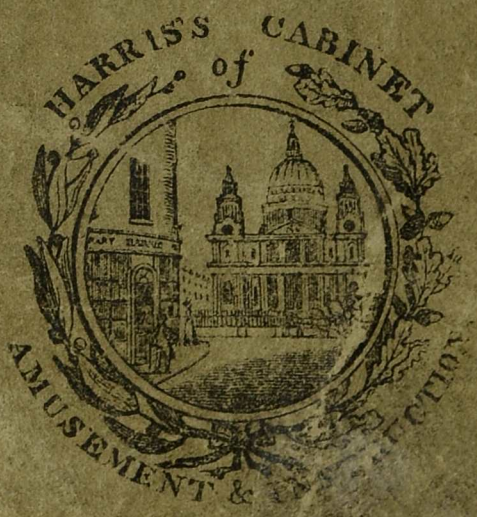
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