The best division of syllables is that which leads the learner most easily to a just pronunciation. Thus, *hab-it, ham-let, bat-ter, ha-ly, lo-cal, en-gage, an-i-mal, al-i-ment, pol-i-cy, eb-o-ny, des-ig-nate, lum-ent-a-ble, pref-er-a-ble.*

An exception to this rule occurs in such words as *vicious, ambition*, in which the *ci* and *ti* are pronounced like *sh*. In this case, it seems preferable to divide the words thus, *vi-cious, am-bi-tion.*

In dividing the syllables of derivative words it seems advisable to keep the original entire, unless when this division may lead to a wrong pronunciation. Thus *act-or, help-er, op-press-or*, may be considered as a better division than *ac-tor, hel-per, op-pres-sor*. But it may be eligible in many cases, to deviate from this rule. Thus *op-pres-sion* seems to be more convenient both for children in learning and for printers, than *op-press-ion*.

RULES FOR SPELLING.

1. Verbs of one syllable, ending with a single consonant preceded by a short vowel, and verbs of more syllables than one, ending with an accented consonant preceded by a short vowel, double the final consonant in the participle, and when any syllable is added beginning with a vowel. Thus,

Abet,	Sin,	Permit,
Abetted,	Sinned,	Permitted,
Abetting,	Sinning,	Permitting,
Abettor.	Sinner.	Permitter.

2. When the final consonant is preceded by a long vowel, the consonant is usually not doubled. Thus,

Seal,	Repeal,	Defeat,
Sealed,	Repealed,	Defeated,
Sealing,	Repealing,	Defeating,
Sealer.	Repealer.	Defeater.

3. When the accent falls on any syllable except the last, the final consonant of the verb is not to be doubled in the derivatives. Thus.

Bias,	Quarrel,	Worship,	Equal,
Biased,	Quarreled,	Worshiped,	Equaled,
Biasing,	Quarreling,	Worshiping,	Equaling,
Biaser.	Quarreler.	Worshiper.	Equaler.

The same rule is generally to be observed in nouns, as in *jeweler*, from *jewel*.

These are general rules; though possibly special reasons may, in some instances, justify exceptions.

CLASSIFICATION OF WORDS.

Words are classified according to their uses. Writers on grammar are not perfectly agreed in the distribution of words into classes. But I shall, with one exception, follow the common distribution. Words then may be distributed into eight classes or parts of speech. 1. The *name* or *noun*. 2. The *pronoun* or *substitute*. 3. The *adjective, attribute* or *attributive*. 4. The *verb*. 5. The *adverb*. 6. The *preposition*. 7. The *connective* or *conjunction*. 8. The *exclamation* or *interjection*.

The participle is sometimes treated as a distinct part of speech; it is a derivative from the verb, and partakes of its nature, expressing motion or action. But it sometimes loses its verbal character, and becomes a mere adjective, expressing quality or habit, rather than action.

Names or Nouns.

A name or noun is that by which a thing is called; and it expresses the idea of that which exists, material or immaterial. Of material substances, as man, horse, tree, table—of immaterial things, as faith, hope, love. These and similar words are, by customary use, made the *names* of things which exist, or the symbols of ideas, which they express without the help of any other word.

Division of Names.

NAMES are of two kinds; *common*, or those which represent the idea of a whole kind or species; and *proper* or *appropriate*, which denote individuals. Thus *animal* is a name common to all beings, having organized bodies and endowed with life, digestion, and spontaneous motion. *Plant* and *vegetable* are names of all beings which have organized bodies and life, *without* the power of spontaneous motion. *Fowl* is the common name of all feathered animals which fly—*fish*, of animals which live wholly in water.

On the other hand, Thomas, John, William, are *proper* or appropriate names, each denoting an individual of which there is no species or kind. London, Paris, Amsterdam, Rhine, Po, Danube, Massachusetts, Hudson, Potomac, are also proper names, being appropriate to individual things.

Proper names however become common when they comprehend two or more individuals; as, the Capets, the Smiths, the Fletchers.

"*Two Roberts* there the pagan force defy'd." *Hoole's Tasso*, b. 20

Limitation of Names.

PROPER names are sufficiently definite without the aid of another word to limit their meaning, as Boston, Baltimore, Savannah. Yet when certain individuals have a common character, or predominant qualities which create a similitude between them, this common character becomes in the mind *a species*, and the proper name of an individual possessing this character, admits of the definitives and of plural number, like a common name. Thus a conspirator is called *a* Catiline; and numbers of them Catilines or *the* Catilines of their country. A distinguished general is called *a* Cesar—an eminent orator *the* Cicero of his age.

But names, which are common to a whole kind or species, require often to be limited to an individual or a certain number of individuals of the kind or species. For this purpose the English language is furnished with a number of words, as *an*, or *a*, *the, this, that, these, those*, and a few others, which define the extent of the significations of common names, or point to the particular things mentioned. These are all adjectives or *attributes*, having a dependence on some noun expressed or implied.

RULE I.—A noun or name, without a preceding definitive, is used either in an unlimited sense, extending to the whole species, or in an indefinite sense, denoting a number or quantity, but not the whole.

"The proper study of mankind is *man*." *Pope.*

Here *man* comprehends the whole species.

"In the first place, *woman* has, in general, much stronger propensity than *man* to the perfect discharge of parental duties." *Life of Cowper.*

Here *woman* and *man* comprehend each the whole species of its sex.

NOTE.—The rule laid down by Lowth, and transcribed implicitly by his followers, is general. "A substantive without any article to limit it, is taken in its *widest sense*; thus *man* means *all mankind*." The examples already given prove the inaccuracy of the rule. But let it be tried by other examples.

"There are *fishes* that have wings, and are not strangers to the airy regions."—LOCKE, b.3. ch. 6. 12. If the rule is just, that *fishes* is to be "taken in its widest sense," then *all fishes* have wings'

RULE II.—The definitive *an* or *a*, being merely *one*, in its *English* orthography, and precisely synonymous with it, limits a common name to an individual of the species. Its sole use is to express *unity*, and with respect to number, it is the most definite word imaginable; as *an* ounce, *a* church, *a* ship, that is, *one* ship, *one* church. It is used before a name which is indefinite, or applicable to any one of a species; as

"He bore him in the thickest troop,
As doth *a* lion in *a* herd of neat." *Shakspeare.*

Here *a* limits the sense of the word *lion*, and that of *herd* to *one*—but does not specify the particular one—"As *any* lion does or would do in *any* herd."

This definitive is used also before names which are definite and as specific as possible: as, "Solomon built *a* temple." "The Lord God planted *a* garden eastward in Eden." London is *a* great commercial city. *A* decisive battle was fought at Marengo. The English obtained *a* signal naval victory at the mouth of the Nile.

NOTE.—When the sense of words is sufficiently certain, by the construction, the definitive may be omitted; as, "*Duty* to your majesty, and *regard* for the preservation of ourselves and our posterity, require us to entreat your royal attention."

It is also omitted before names whose signification is general, and requires no limitation—as "*wisdom* is justified of her children"—"*anger* resteth in the bosom of fools."

The definitive *a* is used before plural names preceded by *few* or *many*—as *a* few days, *a* great many persons. It is also used before any collective word, as *a* dozen, *a* hundred, even when such words are attached to plural nouns; as *a* hundred years.

It is remarkable that *a* never precedes *many* without the intervention of *great* between them—but follows *many*, standing between this word and a name—and what is equally singular, *many*, the very essence of which is to mark plurality, will, with *a* intervening, agree with a name in the singular number; as

"Full *many a gem* of purest ray serene." *Gray.*
"Where *many a rose* bud rears its blushing head." *Beattie.*

RULE. III.—The definitive *the* is employed before names, to limit their signification to one or more specific things of the kind, discriminated from others of the same kind. Hence the person or thing is understood by the reader or hearer, as *the* twelve Apostles, *the* laws of morality, *the* rules of good breeding.

This definitive is also used with names of things which exist alone, or which we consider as single, as the Jews, the Sun, the Globe, the Ocean; and also before words when used by way of distinction, as the Church, the Temple.

RULE IV.—*The* is used rhetorically before a name in the singular number, to denote the whole species, or an indefinite number; as, "*the fig-tree* putteth forth her green figs." *Sol. Song.*

"*The almond tree* shall flourish, and *the grasshopper* shall be a burden." "Or ever *the silver cord* shall be loosed, or *the golden bowl* be broken," &c. *Ecclesiastes.*