

# PHILOSOPHICAL AND PRACTICAL GRAMMAR

## OF THE

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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### ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the year 1803, I received a Letter from Lindley Murray, with a copy of his Grammar. The following is a copy of the Letter.

"I take the liberty of requesting that the author of 'Dissertations on the English Language,' will do me the favor to accept a copy of the new edition of my grammar, as a small testimony of my respect for his talents and character. At the same time, I hope he will permit me to thank him for the pleasure and improvement, which I have derived from perusing his ingenious and sensible writings.

"If, on looking over the Grammar, any thing should occur to him, by which he thinks the work may be further improved, I will take the communication of it, as a particular favor; and will give it an attentive and respectful consideration. Should he prepare any remarks, he will be so good as to send his letter to my brother John Murray, jun., Pearl Street, New York, who will carefully forward them to me.

I am very respectfully, &c.

LINDLEY MURRAY."

Holdgate, near York, 1803."

Twenty years before the date of this letter, I had prepared and published a Grammar, on the model of Lowth's, with some variations, and on the same principles, as Murray has constructed his. This work passed through many editions, before Murray's book appeared in this country. But before this period, my researches into the structure of language had convinced me that some of Lowth's principles are erroneous, and that my own Grammar wanted material corrections. In consequence of this conviction, believing it to be immoral to publish what appeared to be false rules and principles, I determined to suppress my Grammar, and actually did so; although the public continued to call for it, and my bookseller urged for permission to continue the publication of it. As I had the same objections to Murray's Grammar, as I had to my own, I determined on the publication of a new work, which was executed in 1807; and with a view to answer Lindley Murray's request, but in a different manner, I sent him a polite letter, with a copy of my Grammar. I have understood from his friends in New York, that these never reached him; but he received a copy of my Grammar from his friends, and soon afterward prepared for publication a new edition of his own Grammar, in the octavo form. In the preface to this edition, dated in 1808, he informs his readers, that, "in preparing for the octavo edition, the author examined the most respectable publications on the subject of grammar, that *had recently appeared*; and he has, in consequence, been the better enabled to *extend and improve* his work." On carefully comparing this work with my own Grammar, I found most of his *improvements* were selected from my book.