

The Only Sure Guide to the English
Tongue, or New Pronouncing Spelling
Book. To Which is added a large collection
of Moral Tales and Fables for the
Instruction of.

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The Only Sure Guide to the English Tongue, or New Pronouncing Spelling Book. To Which is added a large collection of Moral Tales and Fables for the Instruction of Youth. With an appendix.

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[Title Page \(pdf\) \(494.1Kb\)](#)

Author

Perry, William

Date

1805. By Isaiah Thomas Jun. (proprietor of the improvements, according to law) : sold wholesale and retail by him at his printingoffice in Worcester, and by said Thomas & Whipple, in Newburyport, and by various other booksellers,. Printed at Worcester, Massachusetts

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Remark:

The title page advertises Upon the same Plan as Perry's Royal Standard English Dictionary, now made use of in all the celebrated schools of Great Britain and America. The first edition had been, as the advertisement for it just after the title-page indicates, one year earlier, in January, 1804. I am particularly delighted to acquire this little book because I lived in Worcester and came to respect Isaiah Thomas a great deal. The cover and spine are damaged, and the book shows wear. The division in much of the early book is the traditional division by number of syllables. Thus there is a table on 85 of words of five syllables having the accent on the second syllable. A group of moral tales begins on 93, and on 109-30 are the fables. There are twenty-seven fables here. At least several are verbatim from Croxall. Several seem original. I like The Priest and the Jester (117). The latter asks the former for successively smaller units of money, down to one farthing. When the priest refuses, the jester asks for a blessing, and the priest agrees. The jester stops him in mid-blessing and says that, on second thought, he will not take a blessing which its dispenser thinks to be worth less than one farthing. The pedagogic character of the fables is clear especially in The Naughty Girl reformed (119) and The Folly of Crying upon trifling Occasions (122). The printer's set-up of the fables is curious. One can be sure that a new fable with illustration will start on the right-hand page. If it carries over onto the next page, that page will be filled out with one, two, or three short fables, and these will not be illustrated. The simple and sometimes hard-to-read illustrations are oval in form. There is a standard decoration on top of each: an urn at the center with a garland extending out left and right and then down on each side. A delightful little treasure!

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Review and Criticism, dark matter proves the law of the outside world.