

PART THE SECOND.

THE MANNER OF TEACHING.

The value of the new system consists in facilitating, in an eminent degree, the business of instruction in the elementary branches of knowledge.

The whole arrangement is founded upon a principle of order and discipline, by which the pupils, under the direction of the master, pursue a course of mutual instruction; those who have made the greatest progress in reading, writing, and arithmetic, communicating the knowledge which they possess to others less advanced than themselves.

These pupils bear the title of Monitors; they have the help of one or more assistant-monitors, if the number of children intrusted to them is too large. Thus, by employing the children as teachers, in carrying forward instruction in the different classes, a single master may superintend a school of 500 or 1000 children.

In the first organization of a school there must be a division into classes, those pupils being placed together whose abilities or proficiency are nearly equal either in reading or arithmetic.

From this circumstance proceed two different classifications. When the children are engaged in reading, the pupils of every class are placed according to their abilities in reading; and when they are engaged in cyphering, the pupils of each class are placed according to their abilities in arithmetic.

The consequence of this arrangement is, that the pupils of a class of reading or arithmetic are on a level; they have the same degree of knowledge to acquire, and the same duties to fulfill, in order to qualify them for a superior class.