

A NOTE ON THE TEXT

The present text of Cobbett's *Grammar* is that of the first edition, printed in New York "for the author" by Clayton and Kingsland in 1818.

The three sections which Cobbett added to later editions have been included as follows: a.) "Double Negative and Ellipsis" (pp. 141-142), from the first London edition, 1819; b.) the Dedication to Queen Caroline (pp. 27-28) replacing the original dedication to Benbow, from the "fourth" London edition of 1820; and c.) Letter XXIV (pp. 152-182), "Six Lessons, Intended to Prevent Statesmen from Using False Grammar, from Writing in an Awkward Manner," from the 1823 London edition.

We have made no attempt to revise Cobbett in the light of modern linguistic studies; to have done so would have meant violating the strong personal bias which is such an essential feature of the book. Nor have we sought, except for a few very minor emendations enclosed in square brackets, to alter the spelling and punctuation of the original. With William Strunk's *The Elements of Style* (1918; rev. 1959, 1972) and H.W. Fowler's *Modern English Usage* (1926; rev. 1965) as our standards, we have provided notes wherever it seemed appropriate to bring Cobbett's instruction into line with modern usage. Apart from this and notes on the book's historical background, we have left Cobbett to speak for himself.