

1911 Encyclopædia Britannica, Volume 28 — Walker, John



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WALKER, JOHN (1732-1807), English actor, philologist and lexicographer, was born at Colney Hatch, Middlesex, on the 18th of March 1732. Early in life he became an actor, his theatrical engagements including one with Garrick at Drury Lane, and a long season in Dublin. In 1768 he left the stage. After some experience in conducting a school at Kensington he commenced to teach elocution, and in this found his principal employment for the rest of his life. In 1775 he published his *Rhyming Dictionary*, which achieved a great success and has been repeatedly reprinted, and in 1791 his *Critical Pronouncing Dictionary*, which achieved an even greater reputation, and has run into some forty editions. He was the friend of the leading literary men of his time, including Johnson and Burke. He died in London on the 1st of August 1807.

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