

PREFACE.

To meet the peculiar needs of English-speaking students in the Province of Quebec, the Natural Method of teaching French was adopted some years ago in the Public Schools under the Protestant Board of School Commissioners for Montreal. This method had long been before the public, but it had been employed for the most part by specialists in teaching individuals and small classes of adults.

A French course based on the principles of this method and adapted to the conditions that are found in large classes of children has now been established in these schools; it includes conversational practice, reading lessons, written exercises, dictation and grammar, and the work is conducted entirely in the French language.

Through the oral teaching, which is the essential feature of the method, the pupils become thoroughly familiar with the sounds of the language, understanding readily and speaking with considerable fluency within the necessary narrow limits of their course. They are greatly assisted in learning to read and to spell by learning first to pronounce correctly. The necessary rules of grammar are studied in French, a double purpose being thus served. Written composition follows readily from oral composition, in which from the first day the pupils have constant practice.