

PREFACE.

In presenting the Elementary Arithmetic to his fellow Canadian Teachers, the author respectfully solicits their attention to the following brief explanation of its arrangement and design.

First, then, with regard to the purpose it is designed to serve, it may be remarked that the Elementary Arithmetic is eminently a *practical* treatise on numbers. Every rule in the book is expressed as clearly and as concisely as possible; is then illustrated by two or more examples worked out and fully explained; and is finally enforced by an exercise containing a sufficient number of problems to thoroughly impress it upon the pupil's memory. This latter object is still more completely attained by the miscellaneous or review problems scattered through the work. It will, however, be observed, that, with the exception of Notation, Numeration, the Simple Rules, and Decimal Money, no attempt has been made to give the pupil worded reasons for the processes employed; that, except so far as the several rules are explained by the examples solved, the work of illustrating and explaining is left to the teacher. This plan has been adopted chiefly from two considerations. In the first place, young children, those for whom the work is primarily intended, learn the reasons of the rules far more easily and expeditiously from familiar and repeated illustrations by the teacher on the blackboard, than they can by studying printed demonstrations; and, in the second place, had these reasons and explanations been inserted, they would have increased the size of the book far beyond what was considered desirable.

It is however believed that in the greater number of instances the rule is so worded, and the solution and accompanying explanation of the two or three illustrative examples are so given, as to enable the pupil to master and comprehend the *rationale* of the process employed. This remark does not, of course, apply to the extraction of the square and cube roots, but it holds with regard to almost every other rule in the book. For a full elucidation and