

PREFACE

It is something of a problem to know what literature is best adapted to the different stages of development of the ordinary pupil. The solution to this problem can be obtained only by actual experience in the class-room. The experience of the Editor has led him to make the following selections for the lower forms of our High Schools.

The literature here presented will, it is believed, be found interesting to junior classes; partly from the large proportion of narrative poetry and partly from the variety of subject if the selections are read in the order in which they come. So, it is hoped, a love for good literature may be developed.

This book is not designed to afford material for a year's work in English Literature. In addition to it a prose work, such as *Ivanhoe* or *The Sketch Book*, and a longer poem, such as *The Lady of the Lake*, or *Evangeline*, should be read.

The notes have intentionally been made few and brief, and are not intended to deprive the pupil of the responsibility and the pleasure of interpreting for himself the poet's meaning.