

## PREFACE.

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THIS little work will, it is believed, be found to meet a felt want, and to serve a useful and legitimate purpose. In the study of a series of eighteen or twenty extracts and selections from the works of as many different authors, it is not to be expected that the ordinary student will have within reach the means of informing himself on the many points of inquiry and difficulty that constantly arise. In the crowded state of the programme and amid the pressing duties of the schoolroom, the teacher can not reasonably be expected to find time to answer all inquiries and solve all difficulties as they present themselves. Both teacher and student must constantly feel the need of a manual such as is herewith furnished.

In the use of literary selections for educational purposes, the first and chief aim of the skilled teacher will be to have his pupil read intelligently and with appreciation. In the preparation of these Notes that fundamental principle has been kept constantly in view. Explanations, questions, suggestions and criticisms have been so framed, it is hoped, as to stimulate and guide the student in his own earnest efforts, rather than in any measure to supersede the necessity for such efforts. Whatever appears in the form of direct statement will be found to be matters of fact, explanations of allusions, etc., which are essential to full understanding of the text and in regard to which, it may be assumed, the means of information are not generally available.

In addition to the standard dictionaries, encyclopædias, and histories, to which free recourse has been had, the author has especially to acknowledge his indebtedness to Phillips' excellent work on English Literature for many of the critical opinions appended to the Notes.