

PREFACE.

THIS volume completes the ordinary Series of THE ROYAL READERS. It differs from No. V., in embracing a wider range of subjects, and in making considerably greater demands on the intelligence and knowledge of the young scholar. At the same time, the lessons have been made as interesting as possible, in order to fulfil what has already been repeatedly pointed out as the aim of the Series—namely, “To cultivate *the love of reading* by presenting interesting subjects treated in an attractive style.”

It is worthy of notice that this volume is not a mere collection of literary fragments. Every subject taken up in it is treated with a degree of completeness which will at once satisfy the inquiring mind and stimulate its powers of thought. With this view it was found necessary to have a large number of the lessons specially prepared; so that a considerable portion of the book consists of original articles.

The following are the leading features in the plan of the volume:—

- I. Very copious NOTES are appended to each lesson, explaining every point of difficulty that occurs in the course of it. These Notes make the book thoroughly *self-interpreting*—a matter of the greatest importance when it is remembered how rarely the scholars have within their reach the books of reference necessary to make every scientific and historical allusion intelligible. It is believed, also, that teachers will find it advantageous to have the requisite information in the compact form in which it is given in the Notes, not only for their own convenience, but also as a means of enabling them to advance more rapidly, as well as more surely, than if they had to communicate that additional information orally during school hours.
- II. The ACCENTUATION and the MEANING of the most difficult words are given in a Vocabulary at the end of each lesson. For