

P R E F A C E.

IN preparing the Fifth Book, the chief aim has been to give pupils an acquaintance with what is most interesting and most important in connection with the world, past and present. The past is seen in a series of some of the striking events of History, and in sketches of the lives of a few noble men. The present condition of the earth and its people is clearly given, both by description and by pictures, in the numerous articles on travel, by the three lessons based on Montgomery's Voyage Round the World, and by the instructive selections relating to fire and water in deciding the physical formation of the earth.

The pupil is introduced to social phenomena on a large scale; and he is placed in a position to begin to think rightly and clearly about them. For this reason, a prominent feature in the book is the life of human beings in large towns and cities. An article on the SOCIAL ASPECTS OF TEMPERANCE has also been inserted; as it was felt that this question, to be fully understood, must be regarded as one of the influences which strongly affect society as at present constituted. This important subject has also been treated in its physiological relations — from the point of view of its effect on the nervous system, and the vital organs of the human body.

The poetical selections are such as cannot fail to have an elevating influence on the minds of the pupils. A number of poems, *printed as prose*, have been introduced into this volume. It is hoped that the teacher will find this exercise useful. The Editors have observed that the strongest tendency of the young pupil in reading is to be carried away by the metre, and to forget the emphasis, or sense-accent, in favor of the ictus, or verse-accent. It is believed that these exercises will train him to prefer the sense to the sound, the thought to the rhythm, the reason to the rhyme, the emphasis to the mere accent; and that he will leave the metre and rhyme to take care of themselves, as in all English verse they can very well do.