



PREFACE.

THE great object kept in view in the preparation of Book IV. has been to supply a collection of Literary Selections which will be interesting and instructive, and will at the same time exhibit to the best advantage the prominent characteristics of the style of the leading authors of England and America. As so many pupils leave school without reading beyond this book, it is of the utmost importance that teachers should have the opportunity of awakening their interest in the wide field of literature, and of teaching them the proper method of studying an author's style, and learning the true meaning of his most beautiful passages. In this respect this book will be found superior to any yet issued as a basis for preliminary examinations in literature.

Where it has been thought necessary, full notes explaining difficult words, or peculiar phrases, have been inserted at the close of the lessons.

Lessons on TEMPERANCE have also been introduced. The editor feels that intemperance is the greatest and most widespread vice—the greatest and most permanent and perpetual source of crime and waste; and he thinks that, if it is ever to be successfully coped with, it must be in the school, and among the young.

The lessons on HYGIENE will, in connection with those in Books III. and V., supply a want long and widely felt. Without adding to the number of the pupil's studies or the cost of his text-books, he is by the aid of these lessons taught the lead-