

has ever been found an efficient aid to the acquirement of knowledge by the very young, and hence it is that we have admitted a large number of pieces, on various subjects, among the prose matter of the Second Reader. The spelling is only a degree more advanced, as we have thought it useful to keep the earlier spelling-lessons in the pupil's mind.

In the Second as well as in the First Reader, we have strictly followed the advice of the saintly Fénelon. Speaking of children, he says: "Give them books adorned with beautiful pictures and well-formed characters; all that pleases the imagination facilitates study. Select books full of short and pleasing stories, then be not afraid that the child will not learn to read perfectly. Let him pronounce naturally as he speaks; other tones are always bad, and savor of college declamations. When his tongue becomes freer, his chest stronger, and the habit of reading more frequent, he will read without difficulty, with more grace, and