

PREFACE TO REVISED EDITION

THIS book aims to realize, in respect to its subject, the ideal of the series of volumes to which it belongs. From an important point of view, the history of great educators is a history of education itself. Books dealing with such men, when written on this plan, are not only biographies, but comprehensive, although concise, accounts of the great educational movements with which the men are identified. In other words, the single purpose of this book is to set before the reader Horace Mann as an educator, in his historical position and relations. Everything is made to bend to this central idea. The work is therefore double — Horace Mann and his Historical Environment. It seeks primarily to tell the story of Mann's life and labors simply and clearly, but in a manner to utilize some part, at least, of the great motive power with which his life is charged. The material for the life, or story proper, has been drawn mainly, but not exclusively, from the *Life and Works of Horace Mann*, five volumes, Boston, 1891. Mrs. Mann's *Life*, which is Vol. I. of the *Life and Works*, abounds in extracts from his letters and diaries, and also contains many letters and extracts from letters written to him. It is to a great extent a book of original materials, and its value is largely due to this fact. In some parts of the present