

PREFACE.

WHAT method do you employ in teaching an author in your classes? is a question that has often been asked the editor; and perhaps he might be pardoned a few explanatory words in answer to such enquiries. The work required in reading an English classic in schools will be found to embrace the following:

1st. A thorough knowledge of the work itself, for the purpose of impressing on the mind of the pupil the thoughts, emotions, and expressions of the author, and for the purpose of cultivating correct notions, logical thought, and a refined imagination.

2nd. A knowledge of the principles of rhetoric and literary criticism, their application to the study of literature, and the proper estimation of literary merit.

3rd. The gradual development of an appreciation of correct art, refined taste, and pure style in literary production, and the fostering of those higher qualities of mind and soul which are the true aims of a polite education.

These objects, it was found, could not be attained by reading the too numerous extracts in the ordinary readers and histories of literature in our schools: hence the present method was adopted of selecting a complete work of some representative author as a means of getting