PREFAUE.

sarily presupposed. The object aimed at has been to lay a broad foundation for further study rather than to attempt the detailed presentation of any special branch.

As some students, especially in seminaries, may not desire so extended a knowledge of the subject as that embraced in the course in large type, the following hints are added for their benefit : Chapter I., on the relation of the earth to the heavens, Chapter III., on the motion of the earth, and the chapter on Chronology should, so far as possible, be mastered by all. The remaining parts of the course may be left to the selection of the teacher or student. Most persons will desire to know something of the telescope (Chapter II.), of the arrangement of the solar system (Chapter IV., §§ 1-2, and Part II., Chapter II.), of eclipses, of the phases of the moon, of the physical constitution of the sun (Part II., Chapter II.), and of the constellations (Part III., Chapter I.). It is to be expected that all will be interested in the subjects of the planets, comets, and meteors, treated in Part II., the study of which involves no difficulty.

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