

teachers, made possible great improvement in the second writing of the manuscript.

Only those who have undertaken to squeeze the history of twenty centuries into one short text, can comprehend fully the difficulties encountered. Many interesting subjects had to be eliminated in order that space might be afforded to make the remaining narrative live and dramatic.

The aim has been, above all things, to tell the story in such a way that the pupil may readily see how one event led to another, for even very young children enjoy the tracing of cause and effect when the subject matter is put before them in a proper manner. The problems and difficulties encountered and overcome by mankind in its upward progress have been kept in the foreground, stimulating the mind of the child to thought and judgment, and forcing into the background the mere memory facts.

The contents of this volume is largely the story of the achievements of the Teutonic peoples as they gathered up and wove together the chief threads of modern civilization. To the gifts of Greece and Rome and the Christian church, the Teutons added their own supreme contributions; and through the dark ages they gradually assimilated these elements, thereby raising themselves to the position of leadership in Europe. It was mainly the daughter nations of these Teutonic peoples that planted European civilization upon American soil. This explanation is offered for introducing the children at once to the old Teutons and for treating the Greeks and Romans in later chapters.

The author desires to express his deep gratitude to those splendid teachers who have tried out the text in their classes. The questions appended to the chapters are largely those of Miss Alice Louise Davis, an unusual teacher of history, as she used the chapters from day to