

reading, but to the love of it. It appeals, in the first instance, to the powers of observation and imagination; but it does not overlook the fact that it is through these faculties, in the case of children, that the judgment and reasoning powers are first reached, and the taste and moral sensibilities are first cultivated. The pieces selected are of a character well calculated to give life, and point, and fresh interest to the daily work of the class—to allure the children to read, and to make them delight in exercising their power of reading. They avoid as much as possible that dull solidity which so much tends to make school hours a weariness to the young.

The numerous Illustrations afford an important aid in this respect. The interest of children is far more readily quickened through the eye than through the understanding; indeed it is through the eye that the understanding itself is most quickly reached. Good pictures are amongst the best incentives both to reading and to thinking. Certainly he were a dull boy who could look upon the clever picture of the Sleeping Sailor surrounded by the Night-capped Monkeys at page 65, or of the Tiger at page 52, or of the Dog and Shadow at page 125, without wishing to know "all about it." It should not be overlooked, at the same time, that pictures like those in this volume, which are not only appropriate and instructive, but highly artistic, serve an important end in training the eye and cultivating the taste. Nearly the whole of these Illustrations have been designed and drawn specially for this book. They are therefore not merely pictures thrown in for the sake of convenience or variety—they are really illustrative of the lessons to which they are attached.

The Proverbs, Anecdotes, &c., scattered through the volume, will afford a pleasant change from the more continuous lessons; while the elliptical form in which many of them are given will exercise the ingenuity of the children, and encourage them to voluntary working,—truly the best assistant which the Teacher can have in the performance of his arduous duties.