

PREFACE.

The favorable reception which our preceding geographical publications have obtained, together with the desire, which the heads of several educational establishments have manifested, to see our course completed, have induced us to undertake the compilation of the present work, which is chiefly designed to supply the want of an elementary treatise, for the pupils of the middle course. This volume is necessarily less complete than that of our *Illustrated Geography*, but it is sufficiently developed, however, to satisfy the exigencies of the course for which it is intended. In this, as in other works of the same nature, we follow, throughout, a rational and systematical method, so that the pupil having thoroughly mastered one lesson, will experience but little embarrassment in the subsequent ones.

In order not to augment too much the size of the volume, and consequently the price of the book, we have decided to dispense with the system which is now generally adopted in all didactic works of annexing questions to each lesson of the text: to supply, however, the deficiency arising from the want of enough of catechetical matter to render the lessons sufficiently lucid, and in order to enjoy the advantages of the method without at the same time assuming its defects, we give, as an instance, the questions in connection with the 17th lesson only. The first sixteen lessons, containing the preliminaries and definitions, have questions inserted also. In the other lessons, as the matter is presented in the same order, it will be easy to adapt the questions to suit, since, for the most part, a change of a few words is all that will be required.

This work comprises two distinct parts, each of which has its own particular importance: the *text*, or the part which the pupils require to commit to memory, and the *exercises*, which refer to the demonstrations on the maps.

The *text*, although occupying but a comparatively small space, nevertheless embraces a complete whole, and about as much as the pupils of this section absolutely require to know, as: situation of countries, population, religion, government, &c.

The *exercises* afford an easy and agreeable means to impress upon the mind of the learner the contents of the maps, without fatiguing the memory with nomenclatures as tedious to learn as they are easy to forget. Every day experience proves the excellence of these *exercises* both on account of the great attraction which pupils find in studies of this nature, and the progress which is the result of them, for success almost invariably accompanies a study which pleases; and, in effect, ought not the chief aim of all educational works be to furnish a pleasing and easy means of acquiring knowledge.

The volume concludes with a few tables showing the districts, counties, towns, villages, &c., of the different provinces of Canada. These tables contain information which could otherwise be found only after long research: with a few explanations from the teacher, they can be referred to by the pupil when necessary.

The maps need no commendation; a single glance at them suffices to prove their excellence. The maps of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada were engraved expressly for this work.