

## ABOUT THE BOOK.

**I**T has come to be the accepted thing for School Readers to be based on the lives of great writers and selections from their works, accompanied by portraits of authors and pictures of their homes. The emphasis is being rightly placed on "literature." This much is a distinct gain. Literature and art, however, have been so intimately related through so many centuries and by so many peoples, that it is surprising that they have not been more closely related in education. To teach a child to interpret and appreciate good art is quite as desirable as to teach him to read and enjoy good literature.

"The Art-Literature Readers" represent an attempt to relate art and literature in a series of graded Readers for school use. The basis of the series is a collection of the choicest literature, the gathering of which has occupied several years of painstaking search. The effort has been to discover in the works of the best writers selections that are literary units, and which possess distinct dramatic and inspirational qualities. Selections that have not been used in innumerable readers have been given the preference. These selections are accompanied by anecdotal biographical sketches and portraits of the leading authors. It is hoped that as literary readers they will be found to possess freshness and the power to hold the child's interest.

The distinguishing feature of the series, however, is the introduction of portraits and biographical sketches of artists with reproductions of their most famous works. Beginning with Book II., the leading artists of the different "schools" are taken up, so that the child completing the series in the eighth grade will have some definite information regarding the characteristics of the various "schools" and the artists of the different nations.

In the "Art-Literature Primer" the purpose has been to present pictures dealing with child life and children's pets, with text drawn from them and presented in such a way as to retain the interest and give training in natural expression. The colloquial form has been retained wherever possible in the belief that the chief end of oral reading is to make children read as they talk. Wherever possible each line is either a complete sentence or a complete phrase. The Primer contains nearly 6,000 words of reading matter, with a vocabulary of only 258 words. In place of distributing the memory selections through the book to interrupt the interest of the child, they have been placed at the back of the book for the teacher's use.