

PREFACE.

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It is the common opinion of teachers that history should be taught by nations rather than by epochs or philosophical divisions, in view of the difficulties which the latter method causes in the mind of the pupil. In deference to this opinion the author has planned the book, but has preserved the sequence of epochs in Book II. by breaking the histories of the states of Western and Central Continental Europe at 1500. Following the history of the Roman Empire, Germany comes first, and the Germanic epoch of the whole of Europe, which succeeded that of the West-Roman Empire, is thus presented in proper sequence. Leaving the history of Germany at 1500 for that of France down to the same time, the French ascendancy over Europe in the time of the Crusades thus receives its proper place. Once more leaving the history of France at 1500 for the Renaissance civilization of Italy, which culminated at that time, the sequence is still preserved. The history of Spain, next taken up, is carried through the epoch of Charles V., for which the matter relating to Germany, France, and Italy affords a solid basis. The Hapsburg monarchy of Charles V. once more gives a footing for the later history of Germany, and that of France is then connected with a brief summary for Europe in general after the French Revolution.

The nations of Northern and Eastern Europe lie in an arch around those of the West and Centre, and are most logically treated after those from which their culture is derived. Here the order of development in civilization has been from west to east. Thus is dictated the arrangement of Book III., which places Ireland first, England second, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden third, Russia fourth, and Turkey last, as only in the 19th century becoming subject to Europeanizing influence. The arrangement of the Ancient Nations in Book I. also observes the sequence of historical development.

Thus much to an indulgent public, as far as preface is concerned. To the kind friends whose confidence inspired and made possible his task—the tribute of the final sentence of his work and the warm well wishes of

THE AUTHOR.

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