

## PREFACE

Professor Charles A. McMurry, one of the ablest teachers of English on this continent, says in his *Special Method in Reading in the Grades*: "The teacher will hardly teach well unless he has saturated himself with the spirit of the selection, and enjoys it. To this end he needs not only to study the selection, but also the historical, geographical, biographical, and other sidelights." It is with the object of supplying just such information for the use of the teacher that this book has been prepared. The editor has endeavored to supply the material necessary for the proper understanding of the various selections contained in *The Manitoba Readers*. The *Handbook* does not deal in any way with the method of teaching the selections in the classroom.

The section dealing with the illustrations treats only the full-page reproductions of paintings by well-known artists. The illustrations specially prepared for *The Manitoba Readers* in explanation of the text are not touched upon.

No attempt has been made to make the lists of books throughout at all exhaustive. Every book either quoted from or mentioned has been carefully examined by the editor, and may be relied upon as thoroughly satisfactory either for class use or for the library.

TORONTO, February 1st, 1915.