

PREFACE.

IN the Indian Schools of our country, teachers and missionaries have labored at a disadvantage with the primers compiled for White Schools. Those text-books are adapted for pupils who talk English before they enter school. Indian children must begin conversational and written English at the same time. In view of this fact, the exercises in the Primer and Language Lessons have been prepared. They embrace subjects, sentences, phrases, idioms, and words designed to introduce the children by an easy and natural method to the study of English. It will be observed that the forty lessons include all the parts of speech. Teachers will have the opportunity of studying the Cree Syllabics, and explaining to their scholars the meaning of the English text. Missionaries and teachers will possess a Cree text of model sentences and idioms for private study, and will be better qualified to read the Bible, the Hymn Book, the Catechism in Cree, and to teach adult Indians to read and write their own language.

Should a teacher, with the sanction of the Indian Department, instruct children in the use of Syllabics, fifteen minutes each day will be found sufficient; but the main effort should be to drill pupils in the English tongue.

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