

Thus the salient points of history are brought within a manageable compass, and an excellent foundation is laid for more thorough and extensive reading in reference to any portion of the world or any epoch of which a complete knowledge may be desired.

In the execution of this plan the author has been very successful. His notices of historical events, though brief, are lucid and satisfactory; and he traces the connection of effect and cause with singular acumen and generally with most commendable freedom from partiality or bias; thus supplying a very good idea of the philosophy of history as well as of the facts which history records.

Upon the portion devoted to American History particular attention has been bestowed in this edition, in order to supply a deficiency which has long been felt regarding the events which have transpired since the war of the Revolution.

While most historians have deemed that the reader and student need to be particularly well informed with respect to every engagement which has occurred in our struggle for liberty, they have almost entirely overlooked the equally important measures and events which have transpired in cabinet and in council. To remedy this neglect has been aimed at in this history, and consequently the editor has contented himself with a recapitulation of the battles of the Revolution, which will be found sufficiently minute for the general reader, and devoted himself more fully to an account of the political history of the nation since the close of the war, thus supplying a narrative, which, though long wanted, has never yet been given in a connected and distinct form. In a word, the work will be found invaluable to the general reader, and a very useful help to the student.