

WHILE this book, both in matter and in style, is a considerable advance upon No. IV., it will be found to meet for its own stage the special aim of the whole Series of ROYAL READERS—namely, to cultivate *the love of reading* by presenting interesting subjects treated in an attractive style. For convenience in class-reading, the lessons are divided into paragraphs of nearly equal length.

The following are the leading features in the plan of the volume:—

I. Very copious NOTES are appended to each lesson, explaining every point of difficulty that occurs in the course of it. These Notes make the book thoroughly *self-interpreting*—a matter of the greatest importance when it is remembered how rarely the scholars have within their reach the books of reference necessary to make every scientific and historical allusion intelligible. It is believed, also, that teachers will find it advantageous to have the requisite information in the compact form in which it is given in the Notes, not only for their own convenience, but also as a means of enabling them to advance more rapidly, as well as more surely, than if they had to communicate that additional information orally during school hours.

II. The ACCENTUATION and the MEANING of all the difficult words in each lesson are given in a Vocabulary at the end of it. The Pronunciation in phonetic spelling of Foreign words is given in the Notes. Derivations are introduced sparingly, and always in brackets, so that they may be either prescribed or not, at the discretion of the teacher.

III. The WORD LESSONS include, besides the Vocabularies, groups of words related in meaning; and two series of specially prepared Dictation Exercises, containing difficult words in common use, words selected from the Civil Service Examination Papers, and words of similar and of opposite meaning. They also embrace some useful Spelling Rules, with exercises upon them; and a complete list of homonyms, the list given in Book IV. having, for convenience in revision, been repeated in the present volume.