

ABOUT THE BOOK.

IT has come to be the accepted thing for School Readers to be based on the lives of great writers and selections from their works, accompanied by portraits of authors and pictures of their homes. The emphasis is being rightly placed on "literature." This much is a distinct gain. Literature and art, however, have been so intimately related through so many centuries and by so many peoples, that it is surprising that they have not been more closely related in education. To teach a child to interpret and appreciate good art is quite as desirable as to teach him to read and enjoy good literature.

"The Art-Literature Readers" represent an attempt to relate art and literature in a series of graded Readers for school use. The basis of the series is a collection of the choicest literature, the gathering of which has occupied several years of painstaking search. The effort has been to discover in the works of the best writers selections that are literary units, and which possess distinct dramatic and inspirational qualities. Selections that have not been used in innumerable readers have been given the preference. These selections are accompanied by anecdotal biographical sketches and portraits of the leading authors. It is hoped that as literary readers they will be found to possess freshness and the power to hold the child's interest.

The distinguishing feature of the series, however, is the introduction of portraits and biographical sketches of artists with reproductions of their most famous works. Beginning with Book II., the leading artists of the different "schools" are taken up, so that the child completing the series in the eighth grade will have some definite information regarding the characteristics of the various "schools" and the artists of the different nations.

Book One of the series continues the work of the Primer with but slight increase in difficulty. It includes an unusually large number of choice selections from children's literature. The pictures may be used as a basis for the study of animals as well as for the study of child life at home and in other lands. Many action lessons may be drawn from the pictures and the children encouraged to tell in their own words the stories which the pictures suggest to them. If used in this way, the book will be found to serve a threefold purpose. *First*,—It will teach the children to read thoughtfully. *Second*,—It will teach them how to express their thoughts. *Third*,—It will give them a slight acquaintance with some of the world's best paintings and an insight into a few of the elementary principles of picture composition.