

TO MY FELLOW TEACHERS :

This little manual is not intended to be of any special interest in itself. It only aims to be a useful index to some of the elementary chapters of the Book of Nature, and to indicate briefly the means by which children may be led to read them with pleasure and profit.

In order that our teachers, at least the younger ones, may be able to do their part well, it will be necessary for them to deepen their own interest, as well as increase their knowledge by further study of *that* great Book.

The teacher will also need to provide himself with a few works which will aid him in taking advantage of the labours of others to hasten his own progress. Elsewhere will be found a list of helpful books, some of which, or similar ones, the teacher of limited means will, by a little self-denial, be able to procure.

I have tried, herein, to outline a consolidated and correlated course of Nature Lessons which would include, essentially, everything embraced under the head of Natural History and Science in the Course of Study for the Common Schools—Lessons on Minerals, Plants, and Animals; Agricultural Topics; Physics—excepting Physiology and Hygiene, which are provided for in the prescribed text-books on these subjects.

So far as I know this is the first attempt at such a correlated course for our schools. It will doubtless be found to have many defects. I shall always be glad to receive hints from other teachers which may lead to amendments in a second edition. A complete series of suitable illustrations would, doubtless, have made this manual more serviceable, but would have added considerably to its cost.