

PREFACE.

THIS book is designed to be read, either at school or at home, in connection with the systematic study of America. It may be used as a preparation for such study, as a means of reënforcing the instruction while it is going on, or as a means of creating clearer knowledge of and deeper interest in the countries already studied.

When pupils have become fairly familiar with the geography of the United States, their attention should be directed to the homes of our American neighbors,—Canada, Mexico, Central America, and South America. The study of these countries should constitute the introduction to the study of foreign geography. Even in these countries, the plants, animals, people, and the characteristics of life, both rural and in the city, are all new. Hence, surprise and delight should attend the reading of the first book pertaining to these countries. This, it is hoped, will be the result of reading this little book.

Great pains has been taken to secure accuracy of statement in regard to matters of fact, and, at the same time,