

examples of the style of the best known foreign and classical authors being interspersed throughout. It is to be noticed, however, that the translations of these writings are, with rare exceptions, the work of our best English authors. Under the department of Poetical Literature, the attention of teachers is specially called to the branches severally designated as Epic and Dramatic Poetry, in which the cosmopolitan character of the book is clearly exhibited. The poetical, as well as many of the prose selections, have been made with a view to their use as Readings and Recitations. The order adopted, wherever the subject admits of it, is chronological, and this, in addition to the brief biographical notices prefixed to all extracts from authors of note, makes the latter part of the volume valuable as an outline of European literature.

The general, and, in some respects, cosmopolitan character of this book cannot fail to commend itself to men of enlarged views on the subject of education in a country like our own. We cannot, indeed, unlock the literary storehouses of other lands and ages for the youthful student, but we may, by exhibiting to his view some of their treasures, incite him to acquire the keys for himself, and thus accomplish the chief aim of a conscientious teacher. The principle upon which this and the other books of the series have been compiled is, that the true value of an educational work or system does not lie in the amount of information which is, by its means, conveyed into the pupil's mind, but in the habits of correct and systematic thinking which it induces, and in the mental and moral elevation which it bestows, thus leading him to seek for himself the completeness of knowledge necessary for the formation of a well-educated man.