

PREFACE.

THE present volume, completing the series of Reading Books, has been prepared for the use of the higher classes in public and private schools. The order of the subjects treated of in it follows naturally that introduced in the Fifth Book of Reading Lessons. Having mastered the introductions to the Physical and Historical Sciences found in that volume, the scholar is prepared to investigate the nature of those important and more abstruse systems of knowledge here presented to his view, as the Social and Mental Sciences. It has been the aim of the Editor to exhibit these sciences, so frequently regarded with superstitious awe and childish aversion, in an interesting but not a false light, by means of pleasing and easily understood extracts from the works of those who may be termed their representative men.

The second part of the book is taken up by a series of readings illustrating the Fine Arts, many of which are of a narrative character, and all eminently fitted to enlarge the mind and cultivate the taste. To these is added a collection of extracts from the best speeches of ancient and modern orators.

In the latter part of the volume, the scholar is introduced to the world of literature. While care has been taken that the later English writers should be well represented, the literature of other ages and countries has not been neglected,