

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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THE hope of producing a book helpful to the great brotherhood of teachers inspired this volume. During four decades these chapters have been given as lessons to many classes of teachers. The practical results in a thousand schools have been observed with intense interest. From year to year, in the light of experience and study and criticism, these lessons have been remodeled. They are now submitted in the form which seems to the author best calculated to aid teachers in preparing themselves for their great work.

Teacher, if you are far advanced, this book is not meant for you. You feast on a profounder professional literature. But you are earnestly asked to judge this work as a contribution to elementary pedagogy. Each paragraph was written to help the teachers of our ungraded country schools as well as the teachers of our graded schools. These, with their schools, were constantly before the mind of the writer. Chapters were condensed into pages, and pages into paragraphs, that overworked teachers might have the most helpful things in the briefest space. The aim of every page is to stimulate the teachers of our elementary schools to make the most of themselves, and do most for their pupils.