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ACQUIRO DE LITERATURA

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## PREFACE

THE present revision of *McGuffey's Readers* has been made with due recognition of the advancement that has taken place in methods of instruction since the appearance of the former edition somewhat more than twenty years ago. While embodying those features which represent the latest and best ideas relative to the theory and art of teaching reading, this new edition retains those distinguishing characteristics which have given to the McGuffey series a more widespread and enduring popularity than has ever been attained by any other school text-books. More than half of the selections used are new to the series, and all have been carefully revised and adapted in conformity with the general plan of this revision. The aim has been, while avoiding experiments and whatever may prove to be of short-lived interest, to hold fast to all those features that are worthiest and most valuable, whether new or old.

Lessons inculcating worthy ideas in regard to right thinking and right living form a considerable portion of the contents of this book. Stories relating to common objects and phenomena of nature are so presented as to encourage habits of observation and inquiry. Selections from the most popular writers for young people are given; and the pupils are introduced to a few of the best and most enduring productions in modern literature.

The transition from the preceding book is without any break or unexpected difficulty; and care has been taken throughout the volume to make the pupil's progress evenly gradual. Only a few new words are used in each selection, and all such as would present the slightest difficulty to the learner are given in an appropriate word list at the head of the lesson. These the pupils should learn to recognize by sight, as well as to spell and pronounce by the aid of the diacritical marks that accompany them.