

PREFACE.

THIS book aims at giving a clear outline of British History, retaining those details only, upon which the life and colour of the story depend.

The earlier Periods, during which settlers of various names and races continued to pour from the mainland of Europe upon these shores, have been sketched less minutely than those later times, when the nation, already formed and rooted, began to grow from within and to expand her mighty energies.

At the beginning of each Period is given an Outline, intended to serve as a framework for the study of the succeeding chapters. Each Period closes with a picture of the daily life and manners of the people, which, it is hoped, will be considered both attractive and useful.

It has been thought best to condense the Literary and Artistic History into a list of eminent men, with notes of their chief works. For convenience' sake the leading men of the Brunswick Period, whose names grow very numerous, are given at the end of each reign.

Since the exactness of historical knowledge depends greatly upon Chronology and Genealogy, these have been made prominent features of the work. While the leading dates are given with the text in the order of time, they are also grouped under certain heads; in which form they may be made the foundation of most interesting lessons. In the Genealogical Trees the line of descent from Egbert and Malcolm Can-