

PREFACE

OF recent years there has been a growing recognition of the necessity of teaching outlines of General History in our schools. But teachers who have attempted to do so have felt the want of a small inexpensive textbook on the History of the Middle Ages. For lack of such a "Primer of Mediæval History" much of the time of the History lesson has had to be taken up with the dictation of notes. To supply this need is the object of my little book. It has no pretensions to originality; it is a primer, not a reading book, and is intended to supplement, not to supersede, the class lesson.

The matter is arranged more or less topically, but for those teachers who prefer to follow a more chronological order it will be easy to use the book without following the order here adopted. In the case of a junior class it would be quite possible to omit the passages dealing with less important people and events.

To supplement a primer of this sort the use in class of original authorities and historical maps is most important. No school library should be without a copy of Henderson's "Historical Documents of the Middle Ages" (Geo. Bell & Co.), and Robinson's invaluable "Readings in the History of Western Europe" (Ginn & Co.). By the kind permission of the publishers I have been able to quote certain extracts from these books. By the kindness of the authors and publishers