NEW HISTORICAL ATLAS

AND

GENERAL HISTORY

BY

ROBERT H. LABBERTON

NEW YORK
TOWNSEND MAC COUN
1888
Miss Mary Me Cline,
Chas. C. Davis, M.D.
TO

M. H. MESSCHERT,

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

WITH AFFECTIONATE ESTEEM, IN GRATITUDE FOR MANY KINDNESSES,

BY

HIS OLD FRIEND

THE AUTHOR.
The Plates of my former Atlas having been destroyed by fire, I hereby offer the public an essentially new Historical Atlas, accompanied by a compendium of general history, thus forming a basis for that geographic treatment of history which is essential to a clear understanding of human society.

For the last twenty years I have been engaged on a large historical and genealogical atlas, which unfortunately has reached such dimensions as to make its publication impossible.


In the text my chief aim has been to give, in an attractive form, the leading events of the history of the world (not a bundle of particular histories), free from unnecessary detail.

The question, however, arises: What is unnecessary detail? It has been duly remarked that "a book which aims to teach just what the pupil ought to remember, and no more, is sure to fail in accomplishing even so much; for history differs from most other branches of study in this—it is impossible to remember isolated facts; they must be connected and illustrated by details in themselves indifferent, so that the mind may get hold of them and retain them. Just as pure nutriment must be mixed with matter which contains no nutriment, but which enables the stomach to digest the food, so in history the facts which are to be fixed in the memory must be combined with facts that are not expected to be retained, but without which the leading events would speedily be forgotten."

I have added to the table of contents, at the end of the main divisions, a brief but carefully chosen general reference to standard works, as an aid to students who may desire to work out for themselves, in greater detail, any special line of investigation.

As this book is designed chiefly for the use of those who know no language but English, I have confined these references strictly to English works, although the temptation has been great to put in some German or French masterpieces, especially when dealing with those portions of history where the supply of English material was either scanty or wholly wanting.

One exception has been made in favor of Lepsius' "Denkmäler," which not only made the study of Egyptian history possible, but laid the firm foundation for a scientific treatment of the history of the hoary East—the cradle of our race and civilization.

Robert H. Labberton.

The Pines, Orange County, N. C.
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