

**SELECTED READINGS FOR
THE EIGHT GRADE. WITH
INTRODUCTION AND
NOTES**

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Selected Readings for the Eight Grade. With Introduction and Notes by M. A. L. Lane

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FOR
THE EIGHTH GRADE

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M. A. L. LANE

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PREFACE

THIS collection of prose and verse "for appreciative reading" in the eighth grade of grammar schools has been made in accordance with the definite requirements of the New York Commissioners of Education, as set forth in the Course of Study and Syllabus for Elementary Schools, published by the University of the State of New York.

In preparing notes for these selections, the editor's purpose has been to supply information, not always easily accessible, which a young reader can hardly be assumed to possess. Words that may be found in all dictionaries, and geographical references which ought to be plain to him, are not included. Much of the benefit as well as the pleasure in reading is lost if all the details of an allusion are made clear, and if nothing is left to the student's own intelligence. On the other hand, his time may be unprofitably spent in pursuing some trivial fact or some bit of unusual knowledge. Special points of interest, such as may belong to the history of a word, or of a certain period, have also been suggested in the notes, but as a rule the annotation has been strictly limited to what is essential to the proper interpretation of the text.

Various editions have been consulted, and the most trustworthy of these have been followed. The introductory notes have been made as brief as possible, being designed merely to give such information as will increase the pupils' appreciation of the selection. The biographical sketches deal with matters likely to be of interest to young readers, rather than with the bare record of events in each author's life. A pronouncing vocabulary of proper names will, it is hoped, save some time and trouble.



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INTRODUCTION

EDWARD EVERETT HALE, one of the great national figures of his time, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1822. He was great as a writer, as an orator, as a preacher, and as a philanthropist. After his graduation from Harvard College at the age of seventeen, he took up journalism and in 1840 was a correspondent at Washington. Needing a wider field for his activity, he became the minister of a parish in Worcester in 1846. As long as he lived he was a preacher, but, as was happily said of him, "he cared more for the Kingdom of God than for any church, local or universal."

In 1848 he became known as a writer, and from that time on his easy, colloquial style and his frequent contributions to many different periodicals made his work familiar to all classes of readers. It was soon recognized that he was the champion of the downtrodden and oppressed, yet he was equally beloved by the prosperous and well-born. He was, in short, as thoroughgoing a democrat, in the true sense of the word, as this country has produced. His quick wit, the stores of information which his wide reading had opened to him, and especially his ready sympathy with every form of human endeavor, made him the most interesting of companions. Dr. Hale lived in all sorts of active ways, but his great aim was to serve the men and women around him. His four famous mottoes are the watchword of the Lend a Hand Societies, which try to carry out his ideal:—

Look up and not down;
Look forward and not back;
Look out and not in;
Lend a hand!