

**AU PÔLE  
EN BALLON**

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Au pôle en ballon by Victor Patrice & P. Shaw Jefferey

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**VICTOR PATRICE & P. SHAW JEFFEREY**

**AU PÔLE  
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Siepmann's Elementary French Series

General Editors { OTTO SIEMMANN  
EUGÈNE PELLISSIER

AU PÔLE EN BALLON



# AU PÔLE EN BALLON

PAR

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## GENERAL PREFACE TO THE SERIES

THIS series introduces a number of works by distinguished French authors, such as de Vogüé and Émile Pouillon, who are prominent in their own country, but whose books have not yet received that recognition among our school classics which is their due; it will also include some of the best productions of Daudet, Coppée, Theuriot, and others, of which no English school editions exist; and finally it will contain a few works which, although more familiar, may yet, it is hoped, be welcome in an edition framed on the plan here advocated.

The *advanced* texts are intended for pupils of the Fifth and Sixth forms, and are therefore longer (80-150 pages) and more difficult. The *elementary* texts are shorter (40-80 pages) and

fairly easy, so as to suit Third and Fourth forms; to these a vocabulary will be added.

Each volume contains enough matter for *one* or *two* terms' reading. The editors, while taking care that the works selected should arouse the pupils' interest, should furnish them with a practical vocabulary and useful phraseology, and should help to cultivate literary taste, will also include in their selection such books as will enable the English reader to acquire a knowledge of France and her institutions, of French life and customs, or, as Thackeray puts it, "to study the inward thoughts and ways of his neighbours."

The *Notes* are not intended to give merely a translation of the difficult passages, nor are they meant to be a storehouse of grammatical curiosities or of philological learning. They aim rather at giving in a clear and concise form such explanations as will help the pupil to overcome all textual difficulties which are out of his reach, and at elucidating historical, geographical, and literary allusions; while reminding the reader at the same time of points of grammar and of constructions which he is apt to forget, illustrating these by parallels taken, if possible, from other parts of the text. As to renderings, the object,

as a rule, is to throw out a hint for the solution of a difficulty rather than to give the solution itself, without, however, excluding the translation of such passages as the pupil cannot be expected to render satisfactorily into good English. Comments are introduced on French life and thought whenever the text affords an opportunity for them. Lastly, information is supplied on word-formation and derivation, where such knowledge is likely to be of real help towards a complete grasp of the various meanings of words, or where it may serve as an aid to the memory.

The *Introduction* will in each case give a short account of the author and his works, with special reference to the text of the particular volume.

*Appendices* will be added to each volume by the General Editors, containing—(1) lists of words and phrases for *viva voce* drill, which should be learned *pari passu* with the reading; (2) exercises on syntax and idioms for *viva voce* practice, which will involve the vocabulary of a certain portion of the text; (3) continuous passages for translation into French, which will bring composition and construing lessons into close relation; (4) some chapter on word-formation or etymology of a practical nature.