

**READINGS FROM THE  
BIBLE: SELECTED  
FOR SCHOOLS AND TO  
BE READ IN UNISON**

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Readings from the Bible: selected for schools and to be read in unison by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**READINGS FROM THE  
BIBLE: SELECTED  
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BE READ IN UNISON**



*Bible. Selections. English*

# Readings from the Bible

Selected for Schools and to be  
Read in Unison

UNDER SUPERVISION OF

The Chicago Woman's Educational Union

MRS. ELIZABETH BLANCHARD COOK, President  
MRS. FREDERICA HOGE STRASBURGER, Secretary

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1896



## INTRODUCTION.

1. **Origin.** In a letter addressed to the Vice President of the Chicago Woman's Educational Union, Mrs. E. Strasburger Miller, dated April 3, 1894, Prof. David Swing proposed a committee, consisting of members of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant bodies, for compiling a book of Bible Selections for Schools. This committee was duly appointed by the Educational Union and their card follows this introduction.

"The book," wrote Prof. Swing, "ought not to be large. It should be read over and over until the selections should be memorized." The more familiar they become, the more will they be loved.

2. **Selections.** Teachers are ever ready to welcome helps that are of the highest character, and at the same time economize research and study. Hence Bible selections, examined and approved by persons of different faiths, commend themselves to instructors, as portions selected by one individual could not do.

3. **Unison.** The reading or recitation of Bible verses in unison, by a number of pupils, with practice, becomes both instructive and inspiring. And children who are too young to read, will repeat simple selections after their teachers, with delight.

4. **Version.** The version recognized when appeals in courts are made to the Bible, by English law (which is the basis of United States law generally) is the version from which these selections are taken, because the public school is established pre-eminently for the state. But all leading versions are regarded as having some points of superiority, and as being, in substance, essentially the same.

**Italics** in the body of the selections do not represent emphasis; they are used to indicate words supplied by

translators in order better to express the meaning contained in original manuscripts.

**5. Grades.** This book is somewhat graded in its arrangement. The earlier selections being better adapted for the lower grades of the grammar school.

Although pupils never grow too old for these first selections, the latter part of the book is better suited to more mature minds.

**6. Acknowledgments.** For the charming literary and poetic form in which the selections are printed, we are indebted to the suggestion of the Professor of English Literature in the University Extension Department of the University of Chicago. Other statements and acknowledgments will be found in the "Sketch." But the ladies of the Educational Union hereby publicly thank all who have so generously encouraged and assisted them in this work. They especially desire to make grateful acknowledgments to the members of the Editorial Committee who have so wisely and continuously used their varied and valuable endowments for the good of our Public Schools.

The Educational System of the United States has a strong and broad foundation in religion, morality and knowledge. Its early record is true to law, to the welfare of the state, of society, of the individual. We must protect and improve this system bequeathed us by our ancestors. If we limit it to a narrow and exclusively material or secular system of instruction, "the result will be deterioration of the National type" and the loss of finer and firmer qualities which make citizens well-balanced and symmetrical in character. Personal purity and unselfish conduct thrive in those who are "alive in all their faculties."

In behalf of the Chicago Woman's Educational Union,  
ELIZABETH B. COOK, President,  
FREDERICA H. STRASBURGER, Secretary.





STATEMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY PROFESSOR SWING.

At the request of the Chicago Woman's Educational Union the undersigned, who were named by the late Prof. Swing as members of a Committee on the proposed Scripture Reader for Public Schools, take great pleasure in expressing their hearty approval of the work which has been accomplished in that behalf through the efforts of the Union. While, when requested, we have freely made suggestions to the officers of the Union, and have been glad to afford them any assistance which seemed to be in our power, we are happy to state that there has been slight occasion for formal action on our part as an Editorial Committee. We have all been extremely careful not to put ourselves in the position of assuming to act as authorized representatives of the various religious bodies to which we belong.

It is, however, our privilege to say that the intelligence, prudence and wise and painstaking zeal with which the work involved has been pursued by the Chicago Woman's Educational Union, under the faithful and earnest leadership of its President, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Cook, merits the highest praise. Never aggressive, never thrusting their own religious convictions upon others, but appealing with like candor and sincerity to representatives of all the leading forms of faith in this country, this Woman's Union has made progress, and promises to secure results far in advance of anything else in the same direction hitherto achieved or attempted. This book is, however, not merely the book of the Educational Union. It may be truly said that the City of

Chicago herself (acting by many representatives) is the maker of this Scripture Reader. It belongs, indeed, to the whole country, for eminent representatives of the different churches in many parts of the Union have participated in the work of its compilation.

We therefore respectfully commend it to the favorable consideration of those for whom it has been prepared.

CHICAGO, JANUARY, 1896.

*Signed,*

William J. Orsham  
John Henry Barrow.  
Charles C. Bonney.



## SKETCH OF THE WORK CONNECTED WITH THE PREPARATION OF READINGS FROM THE BIBLE SELECTED FOR SCHOOLS.

About five years ago, Prof. David Swing, in a conversation with officers of the Chicago Woman's Educational Union, said that any one who would prepare a book of desirable Scripture Selections for schools, would win undying glory. And as the beauties of Biblical literature passed in review before his poetic and philosophical mind, he repeated with fervor, words from the Psalms and other parts of the Bible which had been to him teacher, guide, inspiration and message.

Time passed on, and the Union, in a quiet way, continued its work, collecting information relative to the proper scope of the Public Schools. The World's Fair found the Woman's Union represented in the Educational department of the Manufacturers' Building, where its committee met daily, throngs of the learned and unlearned, the religious and the irreligious, the rich and the poor, the citizens of our city and her neighbors and friends residing in various parts of the United States or in foreign countries. Nearly sixty thousand of these people left their autographs as a guarantee of their appreciation of the importance of the reading of the Bible in Schools, and multitudes took our literature with them for perusal.

Educators went home to write of the importance of developing the threefold nature of the child, and to reaffirm their approval of the ordinance of 1787, that great charter of liberty under which the schools of Chicago claim the right to be; and now from the North, South, East and West come suggestions and helps for the proper instruction of school children in religion, morality and knowledge.

The World's Fair passed, the work of the Educational Union and its constituency was epitomized by the hand of its early friend, the illustrious President of the World's Congresses, Hon. Charles C. Bonney, as follows:

"TO THE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF THE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

"The undersigned believe that they express a general conviction of the intelligent and patriotic public when they say that there