

**SELECTIONS IN PROSE,
POETRY, AND DIALOGUES
FOR DECLAMATION AND
RECITATION**

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Selections in Prose, Poetry, and Dialogues for Declamation and Recitation by George R. Cathcart

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GEORGE R. CATHCART

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Cathcart's Douth's Speaker.

SELECTIONS

IN

PROSE, POETRY, AND DIALOGUES,

FOR

DECLAMATION AND RECITATION:

*SUITED TO THE CAPACITIES OF YOUTH, AND INTENDED FOR THE
EXHIBITION-DAY REQUIREMENTS OF COMMON
SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.*

Illustrated.

BY GEORGE R. CATHCART, A.M.

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PREFACE.

IN the preparation of this volume the compiler has had three things mainly in view. 1. To make a book of selections suitable to the "Exhibition Day" requirements of Common Schools and Academies; 2. That the selections should be adapted to the understanding of the younger pupils; and 3. To present, as far as practicable, pieces that are fresh, or that have not heretofore been used in a book of this kind.

An attempt has been made in the part under the head of "Selections in Prose" to insert none but pieces of a highly rhetorical character, though in two or three instances this rule has not been adhered to. The compiler's own personal observations have convinced him of the fact,—and he has been assured by many of the most accomplished teachers that it is a fact,—that a boy will memorize more easily, and speak more naturally and forcibly, a richly colored descriptive or didactic passage, than an exercise of simple puerile construction; and his utmost care has been given to selecting such as are free from ambiguous expressions, and long, complicated sentences. The selections under this head will be found

to be taken mostly from standard authorities, and, it is hoped, will recommend themselves for their high moral and patriotic character.

The "Selections in Poetry," in great part, will be found admirably suited to the capacities of the *Youngest Pupils*. They are all of a pleasing and instructive style, and easy to be read and memorized.

The compiler ventures to hope that the volume as a whole will find favor with teachers and others on account of the variety of its exercises, and especially for their freshness, — a large majority of them having never before been similarly used, — and for its beautiful typographical appearance. Some of the pieces of poetry, and two or three of the dialogues, are taken from a charming little book entitled "Little Pieces for Little Speakers," by Miss S. M. Priest, and published by Messrs. Lee and Shepard, to whose courtesy he is indebted for the privilege of inserting them. He is also under obligations to Messrs. J. R. Osgood & Co., and Messrs. J. W. Daughday & Co., for the privilege of selecting from "Our Young Folks" and "The School-Day Visitor." He is also indebted to the pages of "The Little Corporal" for one or two selections.

G. R. C.

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CONTENTS.

SELECTIONS IN PROSE.

Articles	Page
1. YOUNG AMERICA!	1
2. OUR DUTIES AS AMERICANS	2
3. THE CAPTAIN'S STORY	3
4. THE QUEEN OF FRANCE	4
5. THE IMPORTATION OF CHINESE	5
6. THE SCHOOLMASTER AND THE CONQUERER	6
7. DEATH OF GEORGE PEABODY	7
8. BRUTUS ON THE DEATH OF CÆSAR	9
9. OUR LOT AS AMERICANS	10
10. FATE OF THE INDIANS	11
11. OUR FUTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES	13
12. OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS	14
13. VIRTUE AND POVERTY	16
14. WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	17
15. DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY	18
16. THE SOUTH	20
17. THE SONS OF NEW ENGLAND	21
18. THE MERCHANT	22
19. THE WORKINGMEN	23
20. THE REFORMER	25
21. A VALEDICTORY ADDRESS	26
22. THE DEATH OF LINCOLN	27
23. OUR COUNTRY	28
24. A PATRIOT'S LAST SPEECH	29
25. "NOW" AND "TREN"	30
26. THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION	31
27. THE WEST	32
28. ELOQUENCE	33
29. THE FATHERS OF THE REPUBLIC	34
30. MY COUNTRY	35
31. THE STARS AND STRIPES	36
32. THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM	37
33. THE SCHOOLMASTER	38

84. AMERICAN CIVILIZATION		40
85. THE NINETEENTH CENTURY	<i>Victor Hugo</i>	41
86. AN INDIAN'S SPEECH	<i>Everett</i>	42
87. TEMPERANCE	<i>Yates</i>	43
88. THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE		44
89. INTEGRITY		45
40. THE TRUE GLORY OF A NATION	<i>Whipple</i>	46
41. WASHINGTON MONUMENT	<i>Winthrop</i>	47
42. THE DIGNITY OF LABOR	<i>Hall</i>	48
43. PURITY OF CHARACTER	<i>Beecher</i>	49
44. THE AGE OF PROGRESS	<i>Sumner</i>	50
45. EARNESTNESS		51
46. THE PRESENT AGE	<i>Dr. Channing</i>	52
47. THE STREAM OF LIFE	<i>Heber</i>	53
48. THE GREAT WEST		54
49. THE CONSTITUTION	<i>Bingham</i>	55

SELECTIONS IN POETRY.

50. SALUTATORY	<i>Oliver Optic's Magazine</i>	57
51. THE NEWS-BOYS		58
52. A LITTLE GIRL		59
53. JOHNNY LOST		60
54. DO YOUR BEST		61
55. BOYS' AND GIRLS' RIGHTS		62
56. THE BEGGAR BABY		63
57. LINES FOR AN EXHIBITION	<i>Miss S. M. Priest</i>	64
58. SIGNS OF RAIN		65
59. SNOW		66
60. THE THREE COMPANIONS	<i>Mrs. Cruik</i>	67
61. THE TRUTHFUL BOY		68
62. VACATION	<i>Miss S. M. Priest</i>	68
63. OUR SCHOOL		69
64. THE OWL AND THE PUSST-CAT	<i>Lear</i>	70
65. THE CHILD'S DESIRE		71
66. THE SAILOR'S GRAVE	<i>Elixa Cook</i>	72
67. THE VILLAGE SCHOOLMASTER	<i>Goldsmith</i>	73
68. BEING USEFUL		73
69. FOR A CHILD		74
70. THE FOX AND THE CAT		75
71. "I CAN" AND "I CAN'T"	<i>Our Young Folks</i>	76
72. GOOD DESIRES	<i>Montgomery</i>	77
73. THE ONLY COMFORTER	<i>Moore</i>	78
74. A SOFT ANSWER		79
75. SEVEN TIMES ONE	<i>Ingelow</i>	79

CONTENTS.

vii

76. THE BIRD LET LOOSE	Moore	80
77. THE STREET OF BY-AND-BY . . . . .	. . . . .	81
78. LULLABY	Tennyson	81
79. THE SMACK IN SCHOOL	Palmer	82
80. THE QUARREL	Coleridge	83
81. THE MOTHER'S LAST SONG	Cornwall	84
82. IT NEVER COMES AGAIN	Stoddard	85
83. HANG UP HIS HARP	Elias Cook	85
84. MR. LINCOLN'S FAVORITE . . . . .	. . . . .	86
85. THOU ART, O GOD	Moore	87
86. FAREWELL, LIFE	Hood	88
87. THE BLIND BOY	Cibber	88
88. A SUMMER EVENING	Dr. Watts	89
89. WHAT THE WINDS BRING	Stedman	90
90. GOD'S LOVE TO US . . . . .	. . . . .	90
91. LET EMIN REMEMBER	Moore	91
92. SPRING	Anacreon	91
93. THE BIRDS' PICNIC	Cooper	92
94. WARREN'S ADDRESS	Pierpont	93
95. THE SAILOR'S SONG	Cunningham	94
96. SMALL BEGINNINGS	Mackay	95
97. THE MINSTREL BOY	Moore	95
98. TARA'S HARP	Moore	97
99. THE SEA	Barton	97
100. THE TEMPEST	Fields	98
101. A HAPPY LIFE	Wotton	99
102. FATHER LAND AND MOTHER TONGUE	Lozer	100
103. LIFE	Wilde	101
104. INSIGNIFICANT EXISTENCE	Dr. Watts	102
105. A TEAR	Rogers	102
106. THE RIVER OF LIFE	Campbell	103
107. TIME	Herrick	104
108. FROM THANATOPSIS	Bryant	105
109. GOLD	Hood	105
110. A HUNDRED YEARS TO COME . . . . .	. . . . .	106
111. A FANCY	Good Words for the Young	107
112. THE HARDEST TIME OF ALL . . . . .	. . . . .	108
113. THREE WORDS OF STRENGTH	Schiller	109
114. HODGE AND THE PRIEST . . . . .	. . . . .	110
115. PATRIOTISM . . . . .	. . . . .	112
116. GREAT AND SMALL . . . . .	. . . . .	113
117. COLUMBUS ON FIRST BEHOLDING AMERICA	Moore	114
118. THREE DAYS IN THE LIFE OF COLUMBUS	Delavigne	115
119. THE TWINS . . . . .	. . . . .	117
120. FOR A "FIVE-YEAR-OLD"	Oliver Optic's Mag.	118
121. FIELDS FOR LABOR . . . . .	. . . . .	119