

**GERMAN READING-
BOOK, A COMPANION
TO SCHLUTTER'S
GERMAN CLASS-BOOK**

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German Reading-Book, a Companion to Schlutter's German Class-Book by A. Möller

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A. MÖLLER



WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,
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AND 20, SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH.

1876.



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PREFACE.

The composition of the present little work has been suggested to me by the author of the German Class-book, who was prevented from undertaking this task himself. It was his opinion that a reading-book was required to form a link between the study of his Class-book and the reading of German standard authors, since German juvenile literature did not answer that purpose. And, indeed, it is a mistake to suppose that books written for German children should be equally suitable for the young students of other nations.

Guided by this consideration, I first selected from various sources the proper materials and then endeavoured to adapt them, by more or less alteration, to this reading-book, so as to make it a suitable supplement to the German Class-book. In conformity with the latter I took special care to turn to account, whenever opportunity offered, the affinity between German and English, and to avoid too complicated sentences, as well as inexplicable idiomatic peculiarities. I did, however, not think it necessary to reject all idiomatic phrases, but employed occasionally such of them, as are frequently used and can easily be translated. In general, I thought it expedient not to adhere too closely to the various didactical contrivances which distinguish the German Class-book. When its author, e. g., has given in the exercises such sentences only as may be translated quite literally into another language, and where he has distributed the words to be learned so carefully that the radical ones always appear first and

then only their derivatives and compounds: all this I admit to be commendable in a systematic course of instruction like his, but to follow a similar plan in the composition of a reading-book would be as useless as it is unnecessary. This work is by no means written for the beginner, but for somewhat advanced scholars, and it ought not to be placed in the hands of the student, before he is well acquainted with the elements of the language and with the essential points of syntax. However, the master will know best when his pupil is advanced enough to use it.

In works like the present we most frequently find the words supposed not to be known by the learner, placed at the foot of every page. I have deviated from this arrangement by adding a general vocabulary, drawn up like that of the German Class-book. By supplying studious scholars with what they need for their preparation, and by withholding from them, whilst translating in class, untimely aid of the kind mentioned above, I hope to have rendered a service to them as well as to their master; for thus the former have to rely entirely on their own resources, and the latter is never left in doubt with regard to the amount of their proficiency and application.

I have stated the names of the authors to whom I am indebted for the more extended stories, the other pieces of prose I thought best to leave without any reference to their origin. The anecdotes I have gleaned from as many fields as would produce such amusing or characteristic trifles. A considerable number of them have been supplied by the kindness of several friends, and I avail myself of this opportunity to thank them for taking an interest in the advancement of this book, and especially to acknowledge the readiness with which Mr. Schlutter assisted me, whenever I had recourse to his valuable advice.

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Erste Abtheilung.

Anekdoten und kurze Erzählungen.

1.

Zwei Männer begegneten einander in einer engen Gasse. Trotzig rief der Eine: „Ich mache keinem Narren Platz.“ „Ich thue das sehr gern,“ rief der Andere, indem er Platz machte und sich höflich verbeugte.

2.

Am Geburtstage der Großmutter sagte die Mutter zu ihrem Kinde: „Heute mußt du beten, daß die Großmutter recht alt wird.“ „Wäre es nicht besser zu beten, daß sie wieder jung wird?“ fragte das Kind.

3.

Ein reicher Geldwechsler schenkte einer Bettlerin sechs Pfennige. „Der Himmel vergelte es Ihnen tausendmal!“ sagte die Arme. „Das macht 16 Thaler 20 Silbergroschen,“ murmelte vergnügt der Reiche.

4.

„Womit handeln Sie?“ fragte ein hochmüthiger Landedelman den Philosophen Moses Mendelsohn, in der Absicht, ihn mit dieser Frage zu demüthigen. „Mit Mollen.“