

**A FRENCH READER:  
SELECTIONS IN  
PROSE AND POETRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649039449

A French Reader: Selections in Prose and Poetry by A. Buchheim

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**A. BUCHHEIM**

**A FRENCH READER:  
SELECTIONS IN  
PROSE AND POETRY**



A  
**FRENCH READER:**

SELECTIONS IN PROSE AND POETRY.

EDITED, WITH GRAMMATICAL, EXPLANATORY, AND IDIOMATIC  
NOTES, AND A COMPLETE VOCABULARY,

BY

**DR. A. BUCHHEIM,**

EDITOR OF "NOUVEAU THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS," ETC.

*Third Edition, thoroughly Revised.*



**WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,**  
14, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON;  
AND  
20, SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH.  
1873.

303 . 9 . 123 .

HERTFORD :  
PRINTED BY STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS.

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

---

NOTWITHSTANDING the great number of *French Readers* already in existence, the present selection has very successfully made its way in the educational literature of this country. This circumstance might *prima facie* have induced the Editor to "let well alone," and to re-issue it in its original form. He has, however, deemed it more advisable to recast the whole of the editorial matter, so as to make the notes more in conformity with those in his other educational works. The notes therefore, in this edition, will be found far more complete, and altogether of a higher character, both from a literary and a philological point of view, than those in the former editions.

The feature, however, more particularly to be pointed out as distinguishing the present edition consists in the addition of a *complete Vocabulary*, which has been made at the general—and frequently rather urgent—recommendation of those teachers who have hitherto used this Reader; a circumstance which the Editor feels the more bound to mention, as he is no longer himself actually engaged in teaching the French language. This statement must, however, not be considered as implying his own disapproval of *Vocabularies*: on the contrary, no one can be more convinced than himself of the propriety, nay of the necessity, of such an appendage to an elementary reading-book.

LONDON, *May*, 1873.

A. B.

FROM THE  
PREFACES TO THE FORMER EDITIONS.

---

NEARLY every branch of literature is represented in this volume, as far as this was compatible with its small compass and with the object I had in view, which was simply to produce a French Reader containing a variety of amusing and instructive extracts, elevating at the same time the young mind in a moral point of view. The extracts are chiefly taken from modern French authors, and it is to be hoped that they will be an incentive to the young readers to make themselves one day thoroughly acquainted with the vast and magnificent field of French literature.

Similar books are frequently divided according to subjects, but since they are often read through from beginning to end, such an arrangement cannot fail to be fatiguing. A certain *pêle-mêle*, which in the present instance is by no means unsystematical, will probably be found more attractive, and consequently more advantageous. Short anecdotes have been interspersed between the long extracts, in order to provide suitable readings for short lessons.

At the end of the Prose Readings will be found a "Proverbe"—one of those amusing little plays so peculiar to French literature—which is well adapted to be acted in schools or families; the second, or poetical part, contains sundry pieces suitable for public recital.

Since the above was written, the Editor has had the gratification of witnessing the performance of the "Proverbe" *Le Poulet*, on the occasion of public distribution of prizes in some of the most distinguished institutions of this country, and of receiving the assurance that the text of this edition had been used for the purpose.



## CONTENTS.

### A. Prose.

	PAGE
I. Le Chien de Brisquet. <i>Charles Nodier.</i> . . . . .	1
II. Portée de la rue des Vautours . . . . .	4
III. L'Homme au Masque de Fer. <i>Voltaire</i> . . . . .	5
IV. Hammerfest et les Lapons Pasteurs. <i>B. de Loozenigh.</i> . . . .	7
V. Le Paysan et l'Avocat. . . . .	10
VI. Arnold de Winkelried. <i>R. Rochette.</i> . . . .	13
VII. Le Diner dans la Cour . . . . .	16
VIII. Les Chiens des Esquimaux . . . . .	16
IX. La Rente en Chapeaux. <i>Berquin.</i> . . . .	17
X. Sortir n'est pas Entrer . . . . .	21
XI. La prise de la Bastille. <i>Mignet</i> . . . . .	22
XII. La Course des Chevaux à Rome. <i>Mme. de Staël.</i> . . . .	27
XIII. Les Cryptes de Maastricht. <i>Bory de St. Vincent.</i> . . . .	28
XIV. Simplicité piquante . . . . .	30
XV. Béhéaïre et Gélimer. <i>Marmontel.</i> . . . .	30
XVI. Le Crocodile . . . . .	36
XVII. L'Histoire d'un Chiffonnier. <i>Brard.</i> . . . .	37
XXVIII. Les Habitants d'une Huître. . . . .	39
XIX. Captivité de Cervantes à Alger. <i>Florian</i> . . . . .	40
XX. Grande Découverte . . . . .	43
XXI. Hereward-le-Saxon. <i>A. Thierry.</i> . . . .	44
XXII. Mœurs des Dahomans . . . . .	48
XXIII. La Parenté . . . . .	49
XXIV. Origine de la Langue Française. <i>Rivarol.</i> . . . .	50
XXV. La Mère de Washington. <i>E. Souvestre.</i> . . . .	51
XXVI. Festin Chinois . . . . .	56
XXVII. Incendie de Moscou. <i>De Segur</i> . . . . .	57
XXVIII. Le Cheval. <i>Buffon</i> . . . . .	64
XXIX. L'Abénaqui. <i>Saint Lambert.</i> . . . .	64
XXX. Dévouement d'Eponine. <i>A. Thierry</i> . . . . .	67
XXXI. La Fileuse d'Evrecy. <i>E. Souvestre</i> . . . . .	69
XXXII. Voyage Maritime d'un Ourang-Outang de Bornéo . . . . .	74
XXXIII. Racine en Famille. <i>Racine (Fils)</i> . . . . .	76
XXXIV. Le Télescope de Saint-Germain. <i>Mme. de Maintenon.</i> . . . .	77
XXXV. Migration des Animaux. <i>Rouss.</i> . . . .	80
XXXVI. Traits de l'Enfance de Bernardin de Saint-Pierre. . . . .	84
XXXVII. Luites Bretonnes. <i>E. Souvestre</i> . . . . .	88
XXXVIII. LE POULX, etc., Proverbe. <i>Carmentelle</i> . . . . .	88

## B. Poetry.

	PAGE
I. L'Hirondelle. <i>Malan</i> . . . . .	99
II. Le petit Pierre. <i>B. de Perthes</i> . . . . .	100
III. Le vieux Chêne. <i>Jouffroy</i> . . . . .	101
IV. L'Amour maternel. <i>Legouvé</i> . . . . .	102
V. Mon Habit. <i>Béranger</i> . . . . .	102
VI. Le Chien. <i>Lamarini</i> . . . . .	103
VII. Le Nid de Fauvettes. <i>Berquin</i> . . . . .	104
VIII. La petite Mendicante. <i>B. de Perthes</i> . . . . .	105
IX. Les Embarras de Paris. <i>Boileau</i> . . . . .	106
X. Idylle sur la Paix. <i>Racine</i> . . . . .	108
XI. Que t'importe, mon Cœur. <i>Victor Hugo</i> . . . . .	108
XII. Les Hirondelles. <i>Béranger</i> . . . . .	109
XIII. L'Histoire. <i>Boscard</i> . . . . .	110
XIV. Pour les Pauvres. <i>Victor Hugo</i> . . . . .	112
XV. A l'Espérance. <i>De Gavillon</i> . . . . .	114
XVI. Souvenirs du Pays. <i>Chateaubriand</i> . . . . .	114
XVII. Le Nid. <i>B. Souvestre</i> . . . . .	116
XVIII. Le Voyageur au St. Bernard. <i>Chénedollé</i> . . . . .	116
XIX. L'Echo. <i>Malan</i> . . . . .	118
XX. L'Hiver. <i>C. Lami</i> . . . . .	119
XXI. Le Livre et l'Épée. <i>Lachambaudie</i> . . . . .	120
XXII. La Violette. <i>C. Dubos</i> . . . . .	121
XXIII. Le Vieillard et l'Ormeau . . . . .	122
XXIV. L'Enfant. <i>Victor Hugo</i> . . . . .	122
XXV. Le Maître et l'Écolier. <i>Tournier</i> . . . . .	124
XXVI. Le Calife. <i>Florian</i> . . . . .	126
XXVII. Socrate et Glaucou. <i>Andrioux</i> . . . . .	126
XXVIII. La Calomnie. <i>J. B. Rousseau</i> . . . . .	128
XXIX. La Chute des Feuilles. <i>Millevoys</i> . . . . .	129
XXX. La Prière. <i>Victor Hugo</i> . . . . .	130
XXXI. Les Bossignols. <i>Béranger</i> . . . . .	131
XXXII. Le dernier Jour de l'Année. <i>Mme. A. Tautu</i> . . . . .	132
XXXIII. La Fleur et le Papillon. <i>Victor Hugo</i> . . . . .	134
XXXIV. Priez pour moi. <i>Millevoys</i> . . . . .	135
XXXV. Burrhus à Néron. <i>Racine</i> . . . . .	136
XXXVI. Marine. <i>E. Déchamps</i> . . . . .	137
XXXVII. Le Prince et le Rossignol. <i>Lachambaudie</i> . . . . .	138
XXXVIII. Dieu révélé par la Nature. <i>Racine (Fils)</i> . . . . .	139
XXXIX. Combat du Cid contre les Maures. <i>Cornille</i> . . . . .	140
XL. Les deux Pédants. <i>Molière</i> . . . . .	142
The Vocabulary . . . . .	147

A.  
PROSE.

---

I.  
LE CHIEN DE BRISQUET.

CONTE.

En notre forêt de Lions,<sup>1</sup> vers le hameau de la Goupillère, tout près d'un grand puitsfontaine, qui appartient à la chapelle Saint-Mathurin, il y avait un bonhomme, bûcheron de son état,<sup>2</sup> qui s'appelait Brisquet, ou autrement le *Pendeur à la<sup>3</sup> bonne hache*, et qui vivait pauvrement du produit de ses fagots, avec sa femme, qui s'appelait Brisquette.<sup>4</sup> Le bon Dieu leur avait donné deux jolis petits enfants, un garçon de sept ans, qui était brun et qui s'appelait Biscotin, et une blondine<sup>5</sup> de six ans, qui s'appelait Biscotine.<sup>6</sup> Outre cela, ils avaient un chien bâtard à poil frisé,<sup>7</sup> noir par tout le corps, si ce n'est<sup>8</sup> au

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lions-la-forêt* is a town in the Depart. de l'Eure, and is not to be confounded with *Lyon*, the celebrated manufacturing town. <sup>2</sup> De son état, by profession. <sup>3</sup> A la, with the. <sup>4</sup> *Brisquette* is the feminine form for *Brisquet*, in accordance with the rule that adjectives ending in *et* double the *t*, taking at the same time a mute *e*. <sup>5</sup> Blondine, fair girl. <sup>6</sup> The fem. noun *Biscotine* is formed from *Biscotin*, according to the general rule that in order to form the feminine of a substantive, denoting a male being, a mute *e* is added to it. <sup>7</sup> A poil frisé, with shaggy hair. <sup>8</sup> Par—n'est, all over, except.