

**SELECTIONS FOR
GERMAN PROSE
COMPOSITION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649515462

Selections for German Prose Composition by Horatio S. White

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Cover @ 2017

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With Notes

AND A COMPLETE VOCABULARY

BY

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ALLYN AND BACON

1891

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University Press:
JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

PREFACE.

THIS manual may be used by students of German who have finished the grammar, and have had some preliminary practice in translating German into English and English into German. In other words, it has been planned for students who have completed about one year of study in school or college, as well as for those who have reached a more advanced stage of preparation.

The editor has had some hesitation in launching a book of this kind, which was originally undertaken — before the appearance of the excellent "Selections" of Professor Harris and Mr. Fasnacht, or the announcement of Professor von Jagemann's forthcoming manual — with the design of partially filling what was then an apparent lacuna. Even now it may at least represent another variety of treatment of the subject. He desires, therefore, to anticipate if not entirely to meet some probable inquiries or objections.

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The selections have been made with the view of interesting the student in their substance, and accordingly contain many references to German literature and life. The number of selections is small, from the belief that the student will be as much attracted to his work by following a connected narrative as by dealing with isolated sentences, whose difficulty is perhaps not diminished by such isolation.

Authors have been chosen whose style is simple and fresh, rather than formal or elaborate. The eighth extract, however, affords an opportunity for reproducing the structure of involved German periods; while the ninth selection may be satisfactory to those who prefer broken sentences and the staccato manner. The tenth extract, which with a brief introduction would form a little drama by itself, was chosen, in spite of its age, for practice in dialogue; and the eleventh and twelfth selections present specimens of an admirable and natural epistolary style.

The vocabulary has been made as comprehensive as possible, and is supplemented by a variety of renderings and suggestions in the notes. The chief stress is thus laid upon practice in framing properly German sentences, and the acquisition of a vocabulary has been subordinated to accuracy of syntax. It has seemed to the editor unnecessary to include

any grammatical references, as many of the difficult points in translation are solved by the notes and vocabulary. Among the principal perplexities which students meet may be mentioned the choice of the proper prepositions to use with verbs or with nouns, the position of the verb (auxiliary, infinitive, participle, etc.) in relation to its subject, and the order and arrangement of words in the phrase or clause, and of phrase or clause in the sentence or period. It is the office of the teacher to explain and illustrate these usages, an office which could only partially be fulfilled by even the bulkiest commentary; and in prose composition more depends, after all, upon the skill and training of the instructor than in almost any other branch of language teaching.

The vocabulary has been derived from several sources. The editor has made a translation of the whole work, and has utilized whatever other translations of special selections were available, in order that the vocabulary might be not only fairly complete, but accurate and varied. Valuable assistance has also been received from Dr. Martin Krummacher of Cassel, a descendant of the well-known fabulist, and himself the author of numerous skillful and elegant translations from English into German. By his hand was furnished the principal part of the vocabulary for Nos. I., III., VIII., XI. v. and VI., and XII. I., and he has contributed various felicitous

suggestions to the notes, which he has kindly examined.

Some hints to teachers in the form of a short bibliography of helps for instruction or for self-preparation will be found at the beginning of the notes.

For the privilege of using selections from various copyright editions, the publishers and editor desire to express their obligations to Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons for No. VII., to Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. for No. IX., to Mr. Charles Dudley Warner for Nos. I. and III., to Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes for No. VIII., and to the executors of John Lothrop Motley for No. XI. The passages from the "Life and Letters of Bayard Taylor" are used by special arrangement with Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

HORATIO S. WHITE.

ITHACA, N. Y.
August, 1891.

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