

**CHAMBERS'S
ENGLISH
READERS, BOOK II**

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Chambers's English Readers, Book II by J. M. D. Meiklejohn

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J. M. D. MEIKLEJOHN

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BOOK II.

EDITED BY

J. M. D. MBIKLEJOHN, M.A.

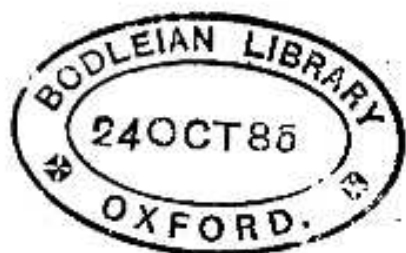
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS



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P R E F A C E.

THE SECOND READER is one step in advance of the First. The words are longer; the sentences are a little longer; and the number of literary phrases has been slightly increased. The exercises are more numerous; and, in compliance with the Revised Code, exercises on grammar have been introduced.

It has not been thought advisable to extend the examination of the NOUN into its species of abstract, proper, common, and collective nouns, but rather to make the pupil familiar with the different forms which English nouns take to the eye; and also with the fact that the *kind* of the word ('part of speech') depends upon its function. Thus *cut, bite, step, run*, and hundreds of others, are verbs or nouns according to the work they do—the part they play in the sentence. This of course is best brought out by lively and judicious questioning on the part of the teacher.

The poetical extracts have been carefully adapted to the age of the pupils.

The type has in all cases been made open and pleasant to the eye, so that at least no mechanical difficulty may come in the way of the learner. The aim has been, quality before quantity.

EDINBURGH, *September 1873.*



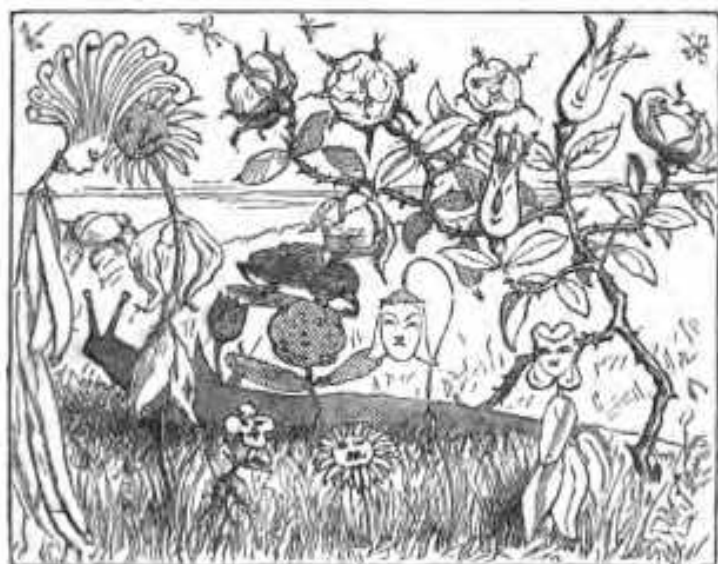
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CHAMBERS'S
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BOOK II.



THE WILD-FLOWERS' BALL,
OR BUZZ THE BEE.

CHAPTER I.

1. It was the beginning of June. The days were warm, long, and so bright, that all the wild-flowers began to long for a dance.

The Breeze as he flew past them said: 'You

little sillies! Why don't you ask the Wild Rose, whom you all love, to give a dance?'

2. The Honeysuckle replied: 'It is all very well for you, Breeze, but we don't like to ask;' and the May blossoms looked proud, and raised up their pretty white heads; while their thorns stuck themselves out and said: 'You had better not be impertinent, Breeze, or we'll prick you as you pass.'

'Ha! ha! ha!' sang Mr Breeze as away he went.

3. 'He is very rough to-day,' said the wild-flowers, as he went bustling past them, swaying their long necks, and making the long grass bend down until it tickled them.

'Oh! Mr Grass, do leave off tickling me so,' said the Harebell.

4. 'You are getting in my eyes,' said the Daisies, while poor little Forget-me-not only sighed; but a great bunch of Wild Roses, growing overhead, heard her sighing, and said: 'Now children, leave off grumbling, and listen to me: I have heard all, and know all about it, so perhaps if you are very good, I will give a ball in that nice, big, shady wood close by.'

5. Then all the flowers clapped their little hands, and very nearly cheered the Rose; but she said: 'Wait a moment: who is to take round the invitations? Old Mr Snail took them round one year, but he was so slow about it that a great many flowers never got their cards till the ball was over.

6. Mr Beetle took them another year, but he *would*