

**THE FIRST GERMAN
READER: TO
SUCCEED THE "FIRST
BOOK IN GERMAN."**

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The First German Reader: To Succeed the "First Book in German." by George F. Comfort

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THE
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"FIRST BOOK IN GERMAN."

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INTRODUCTION.

(Einleitung.)

THIS *First German Reader* is intended especially for the use of those pupils who have studied the author's "*First Book in German*."

Selections. The selections are taken from the best and most popular writings in the rich and charming juvenile literature of Germany. They consist mostly of anecdotes, fables, tales, and pieces of didactic poetry. The style of the selections is clear, simple, and elevated. The sentences are usually short. The words employed are those which are most familiarly used in the conversation of daily life, and the whole treatment is eminently adapted to the intellectual condition of the juvenile mind. The student will recognize a number of pieces with which he is already familiar in their English form. It will be interesting for him to see these pieces in their German dress. By this comparison of the two languages, the German words and the peculiarities of German idioms will be strongly impressed upon the mind of the student.

Poetry. The selections in poetry are great favorites with the children, many of these being familiar as household words to every German child. Their popularity is owing to their charming fresh and nervous style, and their earnest appeals to the best feelings of the human heart. It would be an interesting exercise for the pupil to commit these little poems to memory,

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and to recite them in the class; it would also give an entertaining variety to the exercises of the school to have these poems recited in declamation.

Notes and References. For the greater convenience of the young student, the notes are placed upon the same page as the text. They contain translations or explanations of most of the idioms and of the more difficult constructions. Many of the ellipses, in the poetry especially, are supplied in full. Many of the inverted constructions are given in the natural form of the German sentence. Where long suspensions occur, as between the subject and the verb, or between the verb and prefix of compound verbs, the connection between the separated parts in many cases is given, or is pointed out. For the explanation of grammatical forms and principles, many references to the "*First Book in German*" are given. Occasional illustrations are also added of some of the more striking and simple etymological analogies and differences between the German and English languages.

Vocabulary. The Vocabulary is sufficiently full and complete for the pieces in this Reader. The principal parts of all the irregular verbs, both simple and compound, are given in full. The imperfect tense and the perfect participle of some verbs, in which there is such variation of the stem in these parts from the infinitive as to perplex the beginner, are also given alphabetically.

In Conclusion. This *First German Reader*, in thus following the Lessons and Conversations that are given in the *First Book in German*, will serve a valuable purpose in aiding the young student to

realize that the German language fulfills, as well as does his own vernacular, all the purposes and offices of a language. For it is important that the literary, as well as the grammatical and the practical sides of the language, should be presented to the student thus early, and before he proceeds to the more rapid and more rigid method which is adapted in the German Course.

While this Reader is designed primarily for younger pupils, older students also will derive much profit from reading the simple stories and tales in this book, before reading the more classical pieces in the advanced Reader.

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