

**CLARENDON PRESS SERIES; MODERN
GERMAN READER: A GRADUATED
COLLECTION OF EXTRACTS IN PROSE
AND POETRY FROM MODERN
GERMAN WRITERS, PART II**

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Clarendon Press Series; Modern German Reader: A Graduated Collection of Extracts in Prose and Poetry from Modern German Writers, Part II by C. A. Buchheim

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MODERN GERMAN READER

A Graded Collection

OF

EXTRACTS IN PROSE AND POETRY

FROM

MODERN GERMAN WRITERS

EDITED BY

C. A. BUCHHEIM, PHIL. DOC., F.C.P.

Professor of the German Language and Literature in King's College, London

Examiner in German to the University of London

To the University of New Zealand

To the Society of Arts, the College of Preceptors, etc.

PART II

WITH ENGLISH NOTES AND AN INDEX

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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PREFACE.

THE *second* part of my *Modern German Reader* resembles, in its main features, the preceding one. The Selections as well as the annotations are, of course, of a more advanced character. The former have been made—as was the case with the Extracts in Volume I—by myself from the original works, and exclusively from *modern* writers. I imposed upon myself this by no means easy task for two reasons. First, because I considered it right to give such Extracts only as are quite to the purpose. Not every piece of prose is adapted for illustrating the grammatical and idiomatic peculiarities, or the niceties of any language. My first object in making the Selections was, therefore, to choose pieces which, whilst interesting and, on the whole, also instructive, were suitable as a background for educational purposes. Secondly, it seemed to me desirable to get out of the beaten track by presenting perfectly fresh materials which would have the charm of novelty for both teachers and pupils. This feature formed one of the principal characteristics of the first volume of this series of *Readers*; and it is not a mere conventional phrase, if I add that the publication of a Reading Book which is not the mere outcome of other Readers, was hailed with great satisfaction in the School-room, and that I received numerous requests for the speedy publication of the subsequent volumes.

In arranging the Selections I have adopted the plan of a systematic variation, so as not to weary the students by a tedious monotony, or to startle them by abrupt transitions. This volume thus presents a 'harmonious whole,' as it were, though it contains a considerable number of Extracts, varying in style, treatment and subject-matter. All the pieces are written in excellent German—in a style which may be considered *mustergültig*—and they form, besides, complete sketches by themselves, although they are mere Extracts. Some short tales, such as Auerbach's *Feuerrreiter*, Hackländer's story, given under the title of *Nach hundert Jahren*, and Börne's *Englische Schauspieler in Paris*, have been reprinted *in extenso*. I have carefully avoided the so-called 'professional anecdote,' of which the teacher gets tired at the second, if not at the first reading, and which is greeted by your sharp-witted schoolboy with a half-obliging and a half-mocking smile. I have, however, admitted several humorous pieces which, besides offering pleasant reading, will serve to dispel the common prejudice that the element of wit and humour is wanting in German writings¹.

The short Play which I have selected, giving it—as in a

¹ Some of the extracts in vol. i. have already found their way—as I have been informed—into various papers without any mention being made as to the source from which they were taken. Might I ask the future 'adapters' of any extracts in this volume to deal more honestly by me? I believe I might address the same request to those who may make use of any of the special features in the *Notes*, or of the Extracts in this book, in their future publications. A grammatical feature which I introduced in Part I, for the first time in connection with a modern Reader has already been adopted in a recent publication—of course, in a somewhat altered form—without any mention of the priority of my production.

few other instances—with some slight but necessary alterations, or rather abbreviations, will, it is hoped, be found very pleasant reading and may prove suitable for acting.

In one respect the present part materially differs from the preceding one. It contains a number of poems which I have chiefly selected for the purpose of recitation. It seems that this part of linguistic instruction, as far at least as foreign languages are concerned, does not yet meet with due attention in this country; which is greatly to be regretted, since nothing is so much calculated to promote purity of accent and correctness of pronunciation, and to inspire the learner with courage to hear his own voice in a foreign language, as the reciting aloud of verses¹. It would, of course, be a great mistake, and quite contrary to the acknowledged methods of instruction, if poetry were made the basis of teaching *living* foreign languages. Apart from the desirability, nay, necessity, of acquiring a colloquial knowledge of them, it is imperative first to study them in prose writings, in order to become fully acquainted with their grammatical structures and their idiomatic peculiarities. Poetry is pre-eminently the expression of feeling, whilst prose is the language of thought, which is the reason why numbers of people can easily grasp the drift of a poem in a foreign language, without being able to construe an idiomatic sentence in prose. The right meaning of a poem may frequently be vaguely felt and guessed, whilst prose must be thoroughly understood. In

¹ I may be allowed, perhaps, to mention here for the benefit of those who wish to possess a comprehensive collection of poems, my '*German Poetry for Repetition, with English Notes*' (published by Messrs. Longmans). A few of the Notes have been adopted in the present volume.