

**MODERN GERMAN READER; A
GRADUATED COLLECTION OF
PROSE EXTRACTS FROM
MODERN GERMAN WRITERS,
PART I**

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Modern German reader; a graduated collection of prose extracts from modern German writers,
part I by C. A. Buchheim

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C. A. BUCHHEIM

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MODERN GERMAN READER

A GRADUATED COLLECTION
OF PROSE EXTRACTS
FROM MODERN GERMAN WRITERS

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PART I

*WITH ENGLISH NOTES, A GRAMMATICAL APPENDIX
A COMPLETE VOCABULARY, AND AN INDEX*

SIXTH EDITION, REVISED

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1890

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P R E F A C E.

THE following are the principal features of the present volume: The *Selections*, consisting of instructive, amusing, and humorous pieces, chiefly taken from *modern* authors, have been made from the originals, and do not, consequently, belong to that class of hackneyed extracts which are so wearisome alike to teachers and pupils. They are also strictly *progressive*, both in point of style and contents, and have been so arranged that the student can use the book *as soon as he has mastered the alphabet*, and retain it as his companion during the first year of his studies. The *Sentences* and Lessing's *Fable*, given under the heading of *Vorübung im Lesen und Konstruieren*, which have been literally translated in the *Grammatical Appendix* (pp. 99-103), will furnish the pupil with sufficient materials for 'preliminary practice in *reading and construing*,' and in *grammatical analysis*. I have introduced this feature because it seems to me of paramount importance that the student of a foreign language should make himself acquainted at the outset with the general features of the *order of words* in the foreign idiom¹.

The *Notes* give a translation of all the idiomatic and difficult phrases occurring in the Text, and all the requisite

¹ It has been considered advisable to confine this volume to prose extracts only; but in order to provide suitable materials for beginners who may be desirous of learning German poetry by heart—a practice which is most efficiently cultivated in Germany, but greatly neglected in this country—a special volume of 'German Poetry for Beginners' is in course of preparation by Miss Emma S. Buchheim.

historical, biographical, and geographical information. They also contain, besides etymological explanations, a considerable number of grammatical rules, and numerous hints for translating from German into English, which are not to be found in any other manual, and which may serve the student as a guide in his future, more advanced, Readings. The 'Help Notes,' which are very abundant at the beginning—without rendering it superfluous on the part of the pupil to think for himself, or to make use of the Vocabulary—diminish in proportion as the book progresses, as it may fairly be supposed that the student who has gone through a considerable portion of the *Reader* will not only remember the information given in the preceding pages of the *Notes*, but will also have made adequate progress in Grammar. For it should be remembered that the present volume is intended to be a *companion* only to the Grammar, and not a *substitute* for it.

The *Vocabulary* gives the rendering of *every* expression occurring in the *Text*, and is, besides, *grammatical* and *etymological*, as far as is compatible with an elementary work like the present. The last feature has been introduced in order to make the student, at an early stage, acquainted with the etymology of German, so cognate to the English language. The formal similarity between two expressions has been pointed out by the simple expedient of printing the English words in *italics*: as in similar matters the eye is the best help for the memory. In other instances, the roots or cognate words have been put in square brackets. The *Vocabulary* has further been so arranged that the pupils will find in it sufficient assistance if they should enter a class that has already gone through a portion of the *Reader*, or if the teacher should consider it advisable to deviate from the order in which the *Extracts*

are given. In order fully to provide for such cases, and also for the sake of furnishing a convenient means of reference, an *Index* has been added to the present edition. I also must call special attention to the explanation, in the *Vocabulary*, of the function of the *Inseparable Prefixes*, which topic will be found of considerable advantage by the student in *all* his German readings; but as regards the meanings of the words in general, those only have been inserted which are required for the understanding of the *Text*; for it should be remembered, that the object of the *Vocabulary* is to furnish a *special word-book*, and not a general Dictionary.

The way in which the *Notes* and the *Vocabulary* are to be consulted will be found fully explained in the *Hints for the Use of the Notes and the Vocabulary* (p. xii), a careful perusal of which I would particularly recommend to the learners of German before proceeding to the study of this book.

This volume has met with the general approval of my colleagues to such an eminent degree, that I may be justified in assuming that it has been found useful by those who are desirous of obtaining a systematic and practical knowledge of German, as well as by those who use it as a guide in their preparation for the various public examinations carried on in this country; but in order to increase still further the utility of this book several considerable improvements have been introduced in the present, *fifth* Edition¹; the principal of which is the adoption of the

¹ The *first* Edition of the present volume was published in 1881, which fact I consider it right, nay almost necessary, to mention on account of the circumstance that several features which I introduced in it for the first time—such, for instance, as the grammatical chapter on the ‘Order of Words,’ etc.—were soon after adopted in similar publications, without any acknowledgment of priority to myself.

modern orthography, as used in the schools of Prussia, Bavaria, etc., so as to make the spelling uniform with that employed in Part II. of this series, which has already been published, and with that of Part III, which is in the course of preparation.

The *Notes* have been revised throughout, and additional information has been given wherever it seemed desirable, and, as has been mentioned above, an *Index* has been added containing references to the principal *Notes*, both grammatical and general. It is, therefore, confidently hoped that this volume which, as far as I know, is the *first systematic guide to the art of construing German*, will in its present state fully answer the requirements of a FIRST MODERN GERMAN READING BOOK.

C. A. BUCHHEIM.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON:
Oct. 1883.

In issuing the present *Sixth* Edition of this volume, I have again subjected the *Notes* to a thorough revision.

C. A. B.

October, 1889.

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