

PREFACE.

In compiling the High School French Reader the editors have had in view the requirements of elementary classes in French, and of candidates for Third Class Teachers' certificate in the Province of Ontario.

With regard to its general scope and design, the Reader is intended not only to afford the beginner practice in translation and the means of obtaining familiarity with grammatical forms and construction, but also to serve as an introduction to French literature. It is believed that these two objects are not incompatible, and that it is quite possible for the beginner, while dealing primarily with the mechanism of the language, to obtain incidentally some little appreciation of the beauties of literary French.

The four parts into which the Reader is divided are progressive in order of difficulty. Part I., introductory in its nature, has purposely been made as simple as possible in language, while the thought is either simple in itself or already familiar. The fact is recognized that the student is here struggling chiefly with the grammatical form, and should not be further embarrassed by difficulties of subject matter and idiom.

Two well known fairy-tales, 'Little Red-Riding-Rood' and 'Puss in Boots,' form an easy transition to the short stories from modern authors, of which Part II. is chiefly made up. To this part has been allotted the largest space, both because it is hoped the reader will be encouraged by the interest of the narrative and also because the principal effort of the beginner should be directed to a mastery of the current language of the present day.

Part III. is devoted to prose extracts representing a few celebrated names. These extracts will give the reader a glimpse at least of the vast field of French prose literature, and will afford some little practice in translating the various literary styles.

In Part IV. will be found a few specimens of lyric poetry. It was felt that in a French Reader, however small, this important department of literature should not be wholly ignored. In addition to two of the most famous and most popular national songs, 'La Marseillaise' and 'Partant pour la Syrie,' characteristic poems from La Fontaine, Lamartine, Alfred de Musset, Chateaubriand, Victor Hugo and some authors of less note are given, while French-