

PREFACE.

Since French and German have begun to take a more prominent place in the curriculum of English schools and to be studied with the same seriousness as the Classics, it is essential that editions of French and German authors should show the same level of scholarship as the standard school editions of the Classics. The editor of this work by G. Freytag has steadily tried to attain this end. How far he has succeeded, or if he has failed, will be the duty of the critics to pronounce. The present edition is meant as an attempt at a scientific treatment of a masterpiece of German literature, and the editor's aim has here been to bring home to the student the practical result of such excellent books of reference as Skeat's "Etymological Dictionary of the English Language," Brachet's "Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française," and Kluge's "Deutsches Etymologisches Wörterbuch." If ever modern languages are to make good their claim to form a mental discipline and gymnastic, which may be advantageously substituted for classical training in the case of those whose formal studies end with school life, an editor of modern works must follow the lead Whitney has shown in his masterly compilation of a German-English Dictionary, *i.e.* he must point out to the student the correspondences of the two languages and make him acquainted with the gradual growth of word, meaning, and phrase, and with the practical side of comparative philology.