# GERMAN PRONUNCIATION: PRACTICE AND THEORY

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German Pronunciation: Practice and Theory by Wilhelm Viëtor

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### WILHELM VIËTOR

# GERMAN PRONUNCIATION: PRACTICE AND THEORY



# GERMAN PRONUNCIATION:

#### PRACTICE AND THEORY.

THE 'BEST GERMAN' — GERMAN SOUNDS, AND HOW THEY ARE
REPRESENTED IN SPELLING — THE LETTERS OF THE
ALPHABET, AND THEIR PHONETIC VALUES — GERMAN ACCENT
— SPECIMENS.

#### BY

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#### PREFACE.

There are two opinions frequently expressed with regard to German pronunciation, the one directly opposed to the other. People who know very little about it, generally think it easy enough to acquire a correct German pronunciation from the ordinary spelling and the indications contained in any German school grammar, or, at all events, with the aid of a native, if possible Hanoverian, teacher. Those who have looked into the matter more closely are, on the contrary, inclined to consider it a hopeless case to try to arrive at reliable results, where there seems to be nothing but uncertainty and contradiction amongst the Germans themselves. In the following pages I have endeavoured to show that neither of these views is correct, but that, with some care and good will, a standard German pronunciation may indeed be pointed out to, and acquired by, English learners of our language. Readers who wish for fuller information as to phonetic and dialectal peculiarities, and the history of Modern German sounds, I beg to refer to my Elemente der Phonetik und Orthoepie des Deutschen, Englischen und Französischen (Heilbronn, Gebr. Henninger, 1884), in which due regard is also taken to the works of the leading English phoneticians, Messrs. A. J. Ellis, A. M. Bell, H. Sweet, and W. R. Evans. The pronunciation of about 2,400 German words, indicated by means of the sound-notation used in the present little volume, will be found in a pamphlet which I am preparing for the press: — Die Aussprache der in dem 'Wörterverzeichnis für die deutsche Rechtschreibung zum Gebrauch in den preufsischen Schulen' enthaltenen Wörter (same publishers).

The German spelling adopted here is that given in the official Rules and Word-list for Prussian schools.

I have to thank Mr. W. R. Evans, of London, and Herr F. Franke, of Sorau, for the kind and valuable assistance they have rendered me in the revision of the proof-sheets.

W. VIETOR.

MARBURG A/L., October 1884.

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