

**FRENCH NEWSPAPER
READER: WITH
NOTES, EXERCISES, AND
VOCABULARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649588510

French Newspaper Reader: With Notes, Exercises, and Vocabulary by Félix Weill

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WITH NOTES, EXERCISES, AND VOCABULARY

BY

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NEW YORK ·· CINCINNATI ·· CHICAGO
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

A ma chère femme

VO VINU
AMBROLIAO

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL, LONDON.

FRENCH NEWSP. READER.

E-P 1

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PREFACE

NEWSPAPER reading has often been recommended by eminent teachers as the best practical means to acquire a foreign language and to get at the same time true, first-hand, unbiased information about the men, the customs, the institutions of the country in which that language is spoken. As it is quite difficult, for many obvious reasons, to bring French newspapers to the classroom, the editor of this book has made a selection of newspaper and magazine articles concerning recent events in France. In order to get appropriate as well as interesting reading material, care has been taken to choose only from the best newspapers and magazines, those that have a solid, well-deserved reputation at home and abroad, such as *Le Temps*, the most famous of all, generally recognized as the official organ of the French government; *Le Matin*, the representative of modern journalism in France; *L'Illustration*, the well-known illustrated magazine; *La Revue Bleue*, a veteran among the literary reviews; or *L'Opinion*, a weekly which has won an important place in recent years. It may be added that quite a number of the articles selected for this book have been written by foremost writers in France, Henri Lavedan, Jules Claretie, Adolphe Brisson, and others, who contribute weekly to the Parisian press chronicles on almost every topic of interest. Thus the most particular teacher need not fear that he will find here French of an inferior quality.

The selections cover a great variety of subjects, which will contribute to enliven the interest of the students while helping them to acquire a large and practical vocabulary. The editor's aim has been to offer good

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samples of all kinds of information to be found in a newspaper, from current events, such as accidents, robberies, floods, sporting news, to editorials, and articles on politics, economics, education, literature, drama, without neglecting the commercial news and even the advertisements. Thus it is hoped that after reading this book, the American student not only will have acquired a better knowledge of modern French, but will have been given also an insight into French life and customs.

It will be noted by teachers that the selections have been carefully graded. In Part I will be found shorter selections simple enough to be taken up at the very beginning of the study of the language; the difficulty as well as the length of the articles increases in Part II; in Part III the editor has collected some technical reports, such as a Commercial Bulletin and a few advertisements. Thus the book offers new and interesting material for elementary reading, and may be also used profitably by more advanced classes for sight reading and conversational exercises, the large scope and the variety of subjects giving more appropriate topics for conversation than the ordinary textbook. It is with that aim especially in view that Questions in French, based on each selection, have been added, to be used for practice in conversation.

The Notes explain such grammatical difficulties and such references to persons and places as call for special comment; idiomatic expressions are translated when otherwise the text might not be understood.

The Vocabulary includes all the words to be found in the text.

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Part I

I. FAITS DIVERS

1. **La course à la mort.** — Jules Planké, vingt-cinq ans, était un des meilleurs cyclistes de la région de Douai. Il ne comptait plus les médailles et les diplômes qu'il avait remportés dans les divers matches auxquels il prit part. Malgré ses nombreux succès, Jules Planké était mélancolique. Quelque chose manquait à sa gloire : la consécration de Paris. Ah ! triompher comme les Jacquelin et les Georget de Haguère, sur un vélodrome de la capitale, recueillir les applaudissements frénétiques d'une foule en délire, être le point de mire de l'admiration des femmes, voir son nom s'étaler en lettres hypertrophiques sur les manchettes des journaux sportifs ! . . .

15 — Tel était le rêve que depuis longtemps caressait en secret le cycliste provincial. Ce rêve ne devait pas tarder à se réaliser. Sa réputation grandissante fit qu'un impresario parisien l'engagea. Il devait disputer, dimanche prochain, un match avec une
20 des équipes les plus célèbres de Paris. Ravi, il décida de partir dès hier, afin de passer le reste de la semaine à s'entraîner. A l'arrivée du train, il