

**THE LITTLE BOYS'  
FRENCH BOOK**

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The Little Boys' French Book by M. Etienne

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**M. ETIENNE**

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THE  
LITTLE BOYS' FRENCH BOOK.

By M. ETIENNE.



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## P R E F A C E.

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As a teacher, for some years in this country, of my native language, I have, at one time or other, used most of the popular elementary works in my classes. I have found none superior, on the whole, to Arnold's First French Book, for those pupils who had already made some proficiency in classical studies; and, indeed, his work is composed throughout with a view to the requirements of such scholars. The study of the French language is, however, often begun at an early age, when a boy knows little or nothing of Latin; and, indeed, if it be desired that he should gain such a practical acquaintance with the tongue as to speak it with facility and purity,—he can hardly commence too soon. The little treatise now offered to the public is intended for young beginners; it contains a sufficient number of lessons, which the master first reads to his class, and which they should then read *at sight* to him;—if the pupils are old enough to do so, they will derive advantage from writing out parts, at least,

as exercises. The subjects are such as daily arise in conversation ; and if the lessons be well studied, the drudgery of learning French dialogues by rote may be superseded. The rules are few and simple : an English and French and a French and English Vocabulary are appended ; so that a Dictionary is not required. In fine, I have endeavoured, in drawing up this manual, to secure the pupil from having anything hereafter to UNLEARN ; and I flatter myself it will be found, on trial, that my efforts to aid his first steps along the road to learning have not been altogether fruitless.

M. E.

June 15, 1851.



## PRONUNCIATION.

## ALPHABET.

THE French alphabet is composed of five-and-twenty letters, which are pronounced as follow :—

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M,  
*ah, bay, say, day, a, eff, gey, ash, e, jee, ka, el, emm,*  
 N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, X, Y, Z.  
*nen, o, pay, qu, air, z, tay, u, way, ez, e grec, zed.*

## VOWELS.

The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u, y.*

Three accents are used on the vowels ; the acute, placed on *e*, alone, as in *vérité*, truth ; the grave, as in *père*, father ; and the circumflex, used on every vowel to make it long.

A, is pronounced like *a* in carpet :—

*ami, patrie.*  
*pâte, bât.*

E, has the sound of *e* in *battery*, but is omitted at the end of a word—

*venir, tenir.*

È, is exactly the *a*, as in the English word *fatè*—

*vérité, pitié.*

E, is sounded as *e* in the English word *est*—

*père, modèle.*

Ê, is the same as *è*, only longer—

*thème, honnête.*

I, is sounded as in the English word *timid*—

*timide, ville.*

O, has the same pronunciation as in English—

*poli, encore.*

Ô, is sounded as o in *note*—

*note, pôle.*

U, has a sound which no English word can approximate, and must, therefore, be heard from a master.

Y, is generally pronounced like *i*, but sometimes it has the sound of double *i*—

*lyre, martyre.*

*pays, paysan.*

#### DIPHTHONGS.

There are in French five diphthongs, which are sounded as follows:—

AI, is pronounced like *ai* in the English word *laid*—

*maison, chaise.*

OI, is sounded in one emission of voice, but distinctly pronouncing the two sounds of *o* and *i*—

*moi, toi.*

AU, is exactly sounded as the *o* in the English word *go*—

*chapeau, couteau.*

OU, is pronounced like *oo* in the English word *good*—

*cousin, mouton.*

EU, is generally sounded like *u* in the English word *burden*—

*heureux, menteur.*

#### CONSONANTS.

Almost all the consonants preserve the English pronunciation.

C, is hard before *a, o, u*, and soft before *e, i, y*—

*capitaine, canne.*

*ces, ceci.*

The same observations are applicable to the letter *g*.

TH, is pronounced like a single *t*—

*thé, théâtre.*

# THE LITTLE BOYS'

## FRENCH BOOK.

(1.)

SINGULAR.....	J'ai,	<i>I have.</i>
	Tu as,	<i>thou hast.</i>
	Il a,	<i>he has.</i>
	Elle a,	<i>she has.</i>
PLURAL.....	Nous avons,	<i>we have.</i>
	Vous avez,	<i>you have.</i>
	Ils ont,	<i>they have.</i>
	Elles ont,	<i>they have.</i>
MASCULINE...	Le père,	<i>the father.</i>
FEMININE....	La mère,	<i>the mother.</i>
Before a vowel..	L'enfant,	<i>the child.</i>
	Le livre,	<i>the book.</i>
	Le couteau,	<i>the knife.</i>
	La plume,	<i>the pen.</i>
	L'orange,	<i>the orange.</i>
	L'ardoise,	<i>the slate.</i>

J'ai le livre. Nous avons le couteau. Le garçon a l'ardoise. Vous avez la plume. Ils ont l'orange. Le père et la mère ont le livre. L'enfant a la plume. Nous avons l'ardoise. Elle a l'orange. Elles ont le livre.

(2.)

I have the orange. Thou hast the pen. We have the pen. The child has the knife. She has the book. They