

**COLLOQUIAL FRENCH; OR, THE
PHILOSOPHY OF THE
PRONUNCIATION OF THE FRENCH
LANGUAGE, WITH PRACTICAL
EXERCISES**

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Colloquial French; Or, the Philosophy of the Pronunciation of the French Language, with
Practical Exercises by Antoine C. G. Jobert

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ANTOINE C. G. JOBERT

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PRONUNCIATION OF
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WITH PRACTICAL EXERCISES,

BY

ANTOINE C. G. JOBERT,

AUTHOR OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY,—IDEAS OR OUTLINES OF A
NEW SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY,—LE TRÉSOR DE PENSÉES,—THE
ART OF QUESTIONING AND ANSWERING IN FRENCH, ETC.

Residing at No. 1, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

"L'usage même, comme le hasard, obéit à une loi cachée; ou, pour mieux dire, il n'y a pas plus de caprice dans l'esprit humain qu'il n'y a de hasard dans la nature. L'une ou l'autre expression est également le nom vague d'une cause que nous n'avons pas su découvrir."—(Dict. de l'Académie Française; Préface).

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TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL FITZWILLIAM, D.C.L.
AS AN HUMBLE TESTIMONY
OF HIGH REGARD AND GRATITUDE;
ALSO
TO PROFESSOR RICHARD OWEN,
OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
AS A FLEDGE OF ESTEEM AND DEVOTION,
THIS BOOK
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,
BY
THEIR OBEYIENT SERVANT,
THE AUTHOR.

COLLOQUIAL FRENCH,

BY

A. C. G. JOBERT.

PREFACE.

THE present book contains the first attempt which has ever been made, to demonstrate that the modern colloquial pronunciation of the French language is not the result of blind fashion and ill regulated caprice, but has its origin in natural laws of harmony, the agency of which, although unperceived, at any given time, in the series of ages through which they have exercised their influence, is recognisable in the homogeneousness and the simplicity of the elements of which the spoken language is now composed ; contrasting, as it does, with its ancient etymological roots, and even with the actual graphic form originating chiefly from those roots.

Accent, intonation, emphasis, and quantity, can only be learnt by oral and auricular instruction. But an experience of 18 years of extensive practice has urged the author to the production of a book, where the differences between the phonetic and the graphic elements of the language are fully explained, and in

which masters and pupils will find the means of correcting the errors which the traditional graphic forms continually entail upon them.

This book can, on any occasion, be referred to for the solution of an immense number of the difficulties which besiege the student almost at every step. For instance, if they want to know whether the *x* in a particular word is silent, guttural, or variable, they will successively refer to the vocabularies in the 37th, 46th and 49th paragraphs, where they are sure to find their doubts solved. If they wish to ascertain whether the consonant at the end of a word, is constantly uttered or constantly silent, they will consult § 67, with its notes and lists. The careful perusal of the table of contents will point out to them the particular paragraphs in which they can study other peculiarities, and the characteristic features of the pronunciation of all words, as well as the laws which regulate their associations.

The exercises in the last chapter offer all the usefulness of a collection of phrases, independently of the supplementary advantage of accustoming the learner to the contractions in colloquial intercourse. As these sentences have not been copied from any other book, but have been written on purpose by the author, they must be considered as an addition to the usual routine adopted for the French, in English educational establishments and private families.

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