TRANSLATION, COMPOSITION,
CONVERSATION. THE COLLOQUIAL FRENCH
READER: OR, INTERESTING
NARRATIVES IN FRENCH, FOR TRANSLATION,
ACCOMPANIED BY CONVERSATIONAL
EXERCISES. A COPIOUS YOCABULARY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

#### ISBN 9780649552092

Translation, Composition, Conversation. The Colloquial French Reader: Or, Interesting Narratives in French, for Translation, Accompanied by Conversational Exercises. A Copious Vocabulary by Louis Fasquelle

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# LOUIS FASQUELLE

TRANSLATION, COMPOSITION, CONVERSATION. THE COLLOQUIAL FRENCH READER: OR, INTERESTING NARRATIVES IN FRENCH, FOR TRANSLATION, ACCOMPANIED BY CONVERSATIONAL EXERCISES. A COPIOUS VOCABULARY



### TRANSLATION, COMPOSITION, CONVERSATION.

THE

# COLLOQUIAL FRENCH READER:

OB,

### INTERESTING NARRATIVES IN FRENCH,

FOR TRANSLATION,

### ACCOMPANIED BY CONVERSATIONAL EXERCISES.

WITH GRAMMATICAL AND IDIONATICAL REFERENCES TO

FASQUELLE'S NEW FRENCH METHOD,

THE EXPLANATION OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PASSAGES, AND

A COPIOUS VOCABULARY.

### BY LOUIS FASQUELLE, LLD.

PROPERSON OF MODERN LANGUAGES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SECTIONAL INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, AUTHOR OF "A NEW METHOD OF LEASUING THE FRENCH LANGUAGE," EDITOR OF "TELE."

MAQUE, "" WITH DEARMATICAL REFERENCES, ETC."

NEW YORK:

IVISON, PHINNEY, BLAKEMAN & CO.,

CHICAGO: S. C. GRIGGS & CO.

## PREFACE.

The present volume Las been prepared as a first book for translation; it is composed of easy selections in prose and in verse. Interesting and instructive narratives of some length, have been preferred to short and unconnected extracts, as the pupil always studies the former with more pleasure than the latter. The reasons for placing, in a primary French Reader, familiar pieces from the more modern French writers, need scarcely be adduced, every intelligent teacher knowing perfectly well, that his object is to present to the student, in the beginning, those forms of expression which are first to be imitated and acquired.

The pieces are divided into short Sections or Lessons. At the end of each section, the Author has placed a Colloquial Exercise. The questions which this exercise contains are connected with the answers in the text, by figures. The text and the questions must, of course, be thoroughly studied and understood. the translation of the text and exercise, the questions may be asked by the instructor or by a member of the class. The answers might at first be given nearly in the words of the text. The teacher will find it easy to increase or vary the questions in such a manner as to accustom the student to the use of the different tenses, and familiarize him with composition. The student may afterwards be required to give the answers in his own words. Committing the questions and answers to writing, in opposite columns, will be found very beneficial. Although a language cannot be learned entirely by such colloquial exercises, yet these will be found no contemptible auxiliaries in the study of the grammar.

After the student has mastered the auxiliary verbs, the four conjugations, and reached the 10th or 12th lesson of the New Method, he might commence to translate this reader. If the lesson from the grammar and from the Reader cannot conveniently be carried on in the same exercise, they might take place on alternate days or lessons.

A very beneficial result of this system of conversational exercises, in addition to the translation, is to accustom the student to recognize the words by the sound. This aim should be constantly in view. Many a French student can express himself with tolerable accuracy, understand the written French perfectly, and yet be wholly unable to comprehend the most simple spoken sentence.

At the end of every section, after the Colloquial Exercise, will be found the explanation of the most difficult passages, also grammatical and idiomatical references to the Author's New French Method. Frequent references are made to the table of irregular verbs commencing at page 358 of that work. This plan was thought preferable to that of giving, in the Vocabulary, the first person of the irregular tenses. In the table, the student will find the whole verb, and compare at one glance, the regular parts with the irregular. The references are connected with the text by small letters.

Although the references in the Reader are made to the Author's French Method, yet the book may be used with any other grammar, as the Vocabulary is very copious, and the explanations are independent of the references.

This Reader has been prepared particularly for early students, yet advanced pupils will find the use of the colloquial exercises of great benefit. The questions and answers, as we have observed above, may be varied and much increased.

Grateful for the very flattering reception given, in this country and in England, to his New French Method and other works, the Author respectfully submits the present volume.

L. F.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, June 20th, 1853.

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## FASQUELLE'S

# COLLOQUIAL FRENCH READER

### 1.

### LE SAPEUR DE DIX ANS.

#### SECTION I.

Le y avait en mil huit cent douze au neuvième régiment de ligne,' un petit tambour qui n'avait' que dix ans." C'était un enfant de troupes qui s'appelaite Frolut de son véritable nom," mais que les soldats avaient surnommé Bilboquet." En effet, il avait un corps si long, si maigre et si fluet, surmontó d'une si grosse tête, qu'il ressemblait assez à l'objet dont on lui avait donné le nom; Frolut ou Bilboquet, comme vous voudrez, n'était pas au reste un garçon autrement remarquable. Le tambour-maître lui avait si souvent battu la mesure sur les épaules' avec sa grande canne de jonc, que l'har- 10 monie du ra et du fla avait fini par lui entrer dans la tête et dans les mains. Voilà tout. Mais il ne portaita pas le bonnet 12 de police suspendu sur l'oreille droite, comme les moindres fifres le faisaient; il ne savait pas marcher en se dandinant, 14 à l'exemple de ses supérieurs, et un jour de paie qu'il avait voulu laisser pendre son sabre par devant, comme les élégants 16 du régiment, il s'était embarrassé les pieds en courant et était tombé sur son nez,1º qu'il s'était horriblement écorché,11 à la 18 grande joie de ses camarades. On riait beaucoup de lui,18 qui ne<sup>1</sup> riait de personne.<sup>19</sup> Aussi avait-il dans ses habitudes 20 un fond de sauvagerie et d'éloignement<sup>14</sup> bien rare à son age.".

### COLLOQUIAL EXERCISE.

- Quel était le régiment du petit tambour!
- 2. Quel age avait-il ?
- 8. Comment s'appelait-il?
- 4 Les soldats l'avalent-ils surnommé?
- 5. Pourquoi l'avaient-ils surnommé Bilboquet?
- 6. A quoi ressemblait-il 1
- Quel traitement le tambourmaître lui faisait-il éprouver?
- 8 Imitait-il ses camarades dans la manière de se coiffer,?

- 9. Marchalt-il comme ses supérieurs ?
- Que lui était-il arrivé un jour de paie?
- Quelle avait été la conséquence de sa chute?
- 12. Se moqualt-on de lui?
- 13. Rigit-il des autres?
- Qu'avait-il dans ses habitudes?
- 15. Ce caractère est-il commun aux enfants de l'âge du petit tambour?

Notes and References.—a. Il y avait, there was; M. § 61–2; L. 88, R. 3, 4.—b. M. L. 20, R. 6.—c. enfant de monpe, seldier's child.—d. M. p. 118, last sentence of Rés. of Ex.—c. L. 35; R. 1.—f. from vouloir, M. p. 890.—g. au resto, besides.—k. L. 23, R. 10.—i. from faire M. p. 372.—j. from savoir, M. p. 884.—k. from rire, M. p. 384.—i. L. 7, R. 7.—m. so coiffer, to put on his cap.

### 2

### LE SAPEUR DE DIX ANS.

### SECTION II.

Un jour, c'était le vingt-sept juillet' mil' huit cent douze, 2 le général reçoit de l'Empereur l'ordre de s'emparere d'une position qui était de l'autre côté d'un énorme ravin. Ce

4 ravin était défendu par une batterie de six pièces de canon,\* qui enlevait des files entières de soldats, et pour arriver à

- 6 l'endroit qu'avait désigné l'Empereur,<sup>2</sup> il fallait s'emparer de cette batterie. À ce moment, le régiment de Bilboquet était
- 8 sur le bord de la Dwina; car l'histoire que je vous rapporte s'est passée dans la fameuse campagne de Russie. Tout-à-
- 10 coup, on voit arriver au grand galop<sup>s</sup> un aide-de-camp du général, qui apportait l'ordre à deux compagnies de volti-
- 12 geurs de s'emparer de cette batterie. C'était une opération hardie où il y avait à parier que périraient plus des trois
- 14 quarts de ceux que l'on y' envoyait; aussi les voltigeurs, mal-