

**FRENCH PASSAGES
FOR UNSEEN
TRANSLATION**

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French Passages for Unseen Translation by C. H. Parry

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PREFACE.

IN compiling this selection of extracts I have aimed at variety of subject and style, and a progressive arrangement in point of difficulty. I have not drawn on examination papers, though I have looked to them for my standard.

In the notes I have given meanings and explanations which seemed necessary to a pupil of average knowledge, in order that ignorance of a word should not be a fatal stumbling-block. Where derivations are given, they are intended to fix the meaning on the memory, not to be an exhaustive account of the words. The notes are printed at the end of the text, so that the teacher may, if he wishes, have the translation written without any aid.

I have to thank my colleagues, M. G. Petilleau and Mr. G. G. Robinson, for kind aid and advice.

I am largely indebted to the dictionaries of Littré and Brachet, and to Fasnacht's Synthetic French Grammar.

C. H. PARRY.

July, 1884.

HINTS ON TRANSLATING UNSEEN PASSAGES.

1. Read the passage carefully through, at least twice.
2. When you are stopped by an unknown word, consider any possible derivation of the word looking to the form and sound, and the meaning of the context.
3. Observe most accurately distinctions of tense and mood, and give their force.
4. Mind the small words, the pronouns, conjunctions, negative and other adverbs, and auxiliary verbs.
5. Keep as close as possible to the original *in sense*, but use English idiom boldly.
6. Never write down nonsense.

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*FRENCH PASSAGES FOR
UNSEEN TRANSLATION.*

En 1813, Beyle fut témoin involontaire de la déroute d'une brigade entière, chargée inopinément par cinq cents cosaques. Beyle vit courir environ deux mille hommes, dont cinq généraux reconnaissables à leur chapeau brodé. Il courut comme les autres, mais mal, n'ayant qu'un pied chaussé et portant une botte à la main. Dans tout ce corps français, il ne se trouva que deux héros qui firent tête aux cosaques : un gendarme nommé Menneval et un conscrit qui tua le cheval du gendarme en voulant tirer sur les cosaques. Beyle fut chargé de raconter cette panique à l'empereur, qui l'écoutait avec une fureur concentrée, en faisant tourner une de ces machines de fer qui servent à fixer les persiennes. On chercha le gendarme pour lui donner la croix, mais il se cachait et nia d'abord qu'il eût été de l'affaire, persuadé que rien n'est si mauvais que d'être remarqué dans une déroute. Il croyait qu'on voulait le fusiller.

PROSPER MÉRIMÉE.