

**THE STUDENT'S FRENCH  
PROSE COMPOSITION, WITH  
AN INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER  
AND NUMEROUS NOTES**

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The student's French prose composition, with an introductory chapter and numerous notes by  
Leon Delbos

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INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER  
AND  
NUMEROUS NOTES

BY  
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## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

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No one who has learnt a foreign language, be it a modern or a dead language, and who has become a proficient scholar in it can undervalue the use of composing into that language. This is true of Latin and Greek, and those who are set to write Latin and Greek composition are required to do so, solely to enable them to gain a deeper insight into the very spirit of those languages, than could possibly be acquired by mere translations from Latin and Greek into English. No one now uses, or intends to make use of Latin as a medium of intercourse between persons of different countries, but in the case of a modern language this is not so. Those who imagine that a person who cannot turn a few lines of plain English into anything like idiomatic and fairly grammatical French, can read even the simplest French novel with a full understanding of every portion of the text, labour under an illusion which nothing will dispel better than the utter failure which will attend their efforts at rendering a passage of good French into readable English. How many French books of sterling worth have been spoilt by translators is not a question easily answered, and yet professional translators are generally persons who have spent some time in France, and who are tolerably ac-