

**PRIMER OF FRENCH  
PHILOLOGY.  
WITH EXERCISES  
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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Primer of French philology. With exercises for public schools by A. C. Clapin

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**A. C. CLAPIN**

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OF  
FRENCH PHILOLOGY.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY  
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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, AND BACHELIER-ÈS-LETTERS OF THE  
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## PREFACE.

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THE Exercises which accompany this short Treatise on French Philology are the plea put forth for publishing it. Brachet's 'Historical Grammar of the French Language' is such an excellent class book on French Philology that this apology seems to be needed for trenching upon the same ground. All, however, who are engaged in teaching this interesting branch of the French language, will have felt the difficulty of imparting an accurate knowledge of it, without the help of exercises, and will appreciate the endeavour here made to supply a real need; to them this short Text Book will be welcome, not because it teaches anything new, but because it teaches the discoveries of *Littre*, *Diez* and *Brachet* in a new way, and with new appliances.

The plan adopted in the arrangement of subjects will prove very serviceable in imparting clear perceptions of the changes that Latin has undergone in passing into French. The general laws, according to which the changes in *Latin words* have proceeded, are treated of at the outset, and gradually the mind of the learner is educated to grasp the particular laws that apply to the permutations in *vowels* and *consonants*. Each page of the book is confined to one

separate subject; and to every such page there corresponds an exercise upon it; so that whatever is learnt in each lesson becomes imprinted on the mind by repetition in the corresponding exercise.

Some of the questions in these exercises being intended to stimulate private inquiry in Philology, the answers are not to be obtained directly from the Text; an Etymological Vocabulary has, however, been added at the end of the Book, which will enable any intelligent pupil to answer them without difficulty.

It has been deemed expedient, in this short treatise, to avoid long explanations; much is therefore omitted which it would have been interesting to dwell upon. Thus while the use of the circumflex, as an etymological symbol (as in *même*, &c.), is treated of on the subject of accents, its extension to such words as *théâtre*, *fantôme*, *pôle*, &c., by false analogy, is not here discussed. Again, it would have been interesting, when treating of the addition of letters to French words, to instance similar changes in English ones, and compare with the French *lierre*, *lurette*, *loriot*, the English *nickname*, *newt*, *nugget* (= *an ingot*); or, when speaking of the interpolation of *b*, *d*, *g* (as in *chambre*, *condre*, *épingle*, &c.), to instance the same tendency in English (as in *sound*, *timber*, *slumber*, *laggard*, &c.). Such investigations, however, would have been out of place in this Primer; they are here hinted at as a field for private inquiry. An observant pupil will, from the study of this treatise, see that there is a reason for every change in French words, that there is nothing



arbitrary; and he will be led to account for much that at first was perplexing and apparently irrational. Further, he will be led on to see the reason for many a grammatical rule which before seemed arbitrary, such as the rule for the agreement of the Past Participle conjugated with *avoir*; and he will find some real pleasure in tracing "J'ai écrit des lettres" to "habeo scriptum litteras," while he will recognise in "les lettres que j'ai écrites" the Popular Latin "litteræ quas habeo scriptas."

. A 'Note on French Gender,' by R. Brodie, M.A., which could not have been introduced in the text without interfering with the plan of the book, has, with his permission, been added at the end of the book.

A. C. CLAPIN.

SHERBORNE,

February, 1878.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION .. .. .	3
TONIC ACCENT .. .. .	4
GRAMMATICAL ACCENTS .. .. .	5
ARTICLE .. .. .	6
SUBSTANTIVE .. .. .	7
ADJECTIVE .. .. .	8
PRONOUN .. .. .	9
VERB .. .. .	10
AUXILIARY VERBS— <i>Avoir, Être</i> .. .. .	11-12
REGULAR VERBS—	
FIRST CONJUGATION .. .. .	13
SECOND CONJUGATION .. .. .	14
THIRD CONJUGATION .. .. .	15
FOURTH CONJUGATION .. .. .	16
IRREGULAR VERBS— <i>aller, envoyer</i> .. .. .	17
DEFECTIVE VERBS .. .. .	18-20
ADVERB .. .. .	21
PREPOSITION .. .. .	22
CONJUNCTION; INTERJECTION .. .. .	23
DERIVED WORDS—Augmentatives and Diminutives .. .. .	24
APPENDIX—Vowels, Diphthongs, Liquida, Labials, Dentals, Gutturals .. .. .	25-30
TABLE OF FRENCH TERMINATIONS .. .. .	31
SPECIMENS OF OLD FRENCH .. .. .	32
EXERCISES .. .. .	35-48
ETYMOLOGICAL VOCABULARY .. .. .	49-56
NOTE ON FRENCH GENDER .. .. .	57-68

**FRENCH PHILOLOGY.**