

**IDIOMATIC KEY TO THE FRENCH
LANGUAGE: ILLUSTRATED WITH
COPIOUS AND PRACTICAL
CONVERSATIONAL EXAMPLES OF ALL
THE LEADING IDIOMS, WITH THE
CORRESPONDING ENGLISH VERSION**

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Idiomatic Key to the French Language: Illustrated with Copious and Practical Conversational Examples of All the Leading Idioms, with the Corresponding English Version by Étienne Lambert & Alfred Sardou

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ÉTIENNE LAMBERT & ALFRED SARDOU

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TO THE
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OF ALL THE LEADING IDIOMS, WITH THE COR-
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BY
ETIENNE LAMBERT
AND
ALFRED SARDOU.

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P R E F A C E .

THOSE who have learned French theoretically, through the usual Grammar systems, find themselves very much at a loss, when reading or attempting to converse, to understand the many idioms used in familiar intercourse, since idioms, being that part of the language which cannot be governed by grammatical rules, nor classified under them, are almost entirely omitted.

Of course, the attempt to translate idioms literally, by the help of the dictionary, would only result in meaningless nonsense, as they can only be rendered by an equivalent idiomatic version, which will give sense for sense.

Words modify and change their meaning, expressing different ideas according to their position and arrangement, independent of rules of syntax,—nay, the very inflection of the voice gives them an entirely different acceptation, *i. e.* :

Que voulez-vous ?

What will you have ?

Que voulez-vous !

What can you do about it ?

Il est tard, allez.

It is late, go.

Il est tard, allez !

It is late, I assure you !

Allons donc.

Do let us go.

Allons donc !

Come, come !

We only give these few examples out of hundreds to illustrate how futile it is to attempt to render idiomatic expressions literally.

This compilation of the most useful and familiar idioms may justly be regarded as an indispensable complement to every grammar, and will be found of incalculable service to all learners of French, since it will supply a deficiency long felt, by providing what is not to be found in any grammar.

The idioms being grouped alphabetically, with the literal meaning of the word at the head of the column, are embodied in sentences, thereby making their meaning far more comprehensible than a mere nomenclature without practical application, as the learner is thus furnished with the moulds of thought, and can by analogy form any number of sentences on the models given.

In order to facilitate the latter process, we have given exhaustive examples of the use of one idiomatic verb, and with a little practice the learner will soon be enabled to use them all in the same manner at will, thereby learning *to think* in French.

Should this first volume meet with the favor we anticipate for it, it will be followed by a second part early in September.

THE AUTHORS.

NEW YORK, April 4th, 1874.

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FAIRE FAIRE
IDIOMATICALLY CONJUGATED
AS A MODEL
FOR THE USE OF ALL OTHER IDIOMS.

Faire faire.	<i>To have made, to get made, or cause to be done.</i>
Faut-il en faire faire encore un ?	<i>Must we have one more made?</i>
En en faisant faire deux de plus, il y en aurait assez pour tout le monde.	<i>By having two more made, there would be enough for every one.</i>
Je me fais faire un habit par le même tailleur qui a fait le vôtre.	<i>I am having a coat made by the same tailor who made yours.</i>
Tu te fais faire des bottines, mais tu n'en a pas besoin.	<i>You are having some boots made, but you do not need them.</i>
Il s'en fait faire aussi.	<i>He is having some made also.</i>