

**PETIT COURS DE
VERSIONS; OR, EXERCISES
FOR TRANSLATING
ENGLISH INTO FRENCH**

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Petit Cours De Versions; Or, Exercises for Translating English into French by P. Sadler & C. F. Gillette

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P. SADLER & C. F. GILLETTE

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BY
P. SADLER.

Revised and Annotated by
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INTRODUCTION.

STUDENTS who need practice in translating *English into French*, beyond the routine of grammatical exercises, as an introductory course to French composition, can find no book better adapted to their requirements than Sadler's "Petit Cours de Versions."

The varied topics of its entertaining anecdotes afford exercises admirably calculated to promote proficiency in the French language, at the same time that they impress moral truth and noble sentiments. Hence the popularity of this little work notwithstanding a serious impediment thrown in the way of the learner, in the *Paris edition* (the only one hitherto published), which, being intended for French scholars studying English, contains directions in regard to the *English idioms*, instead of the *French*; an anomaly in the hands of Americans, and also a puzzle, as they must throughout take the reverse of the explanations given.

It is in order to remove this difficulty that the present edition is issued, with the following changes:

THE PARIS EDITION

Contains explanatory notes of the *English* idioms, and references to the *English* grammar.

Opens with a list of idiomatic phrases without *direct* connexion with the text, so that they can be applied only by analogy, which requires from the pupil more mental labour

THIS EDITION

Contains explanatory notes of the *French* idioms, and references to the *French* grammar.

Opens with a list of all French idioms contained in the book, for which there was no space in the notes.

Reference is made to the page where they are to be

than can be reasonably expected. They are, moreover, presented without order, and the difficulty in finding the one looked for, renders them almost useless.

Has a dictionary lacking many words.

found, and they are presented so as to be used without any difficulty whatever.

Has a complete dictionary, with the following important additions:

To the *verbs* and *adjectives* have been joined the *prepositions* to be used before *infinitives* and *complements*. (See Appendix, page 263.) This cannot fail to be considered an improvement by all who have experienced the difficulties arising from the lack of such directions.

It will be noticed that the *French language* has been retained in the notes, it being admitted by all experienced Teachers, that pupils, when sufficiently advanced, derive more benefit from studying in French texts.

The grammatical explanations introduced in the notes bear exclusively on idiomatical peculiarities, which learners are generally inclined to lose sight of. They will save much trouble to both students and teachers, without lessening in any way the rôle of the latter, as the leading rules have been left untouched, this book being not intended to be a grammatical instructor.

As may be inferred from the above, it has been the aim of the author of these alterations to appropriate this edition to the use of Americans, just as the Paris one is to that of the French. He ventures to hope that the work thus submitted will prove both useful and agreeable to students, and therefore meet the approval of all interested in giving French instruction.

C. F. GILLETTE.

K E Y
TO THE
IDIOMATIC WORDS AND LOCUTIONS
CONTAINED IN THIS WORK,
AND WHICH ARE NOT TO BE FOUND IN THE NOTES.

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11. To ask a question, *Faire une question.*
12. To make some amends, *Dédommager un peu.*
14. To lose every tooth in one's head, *Perdre toutes ses dents.*
16. At the expense of, *Aux dépens de.* (The word *expens* is to be translated *dépens* s. m. pl. and not *dépense* s. f. in the sense of *at the sacrifice of, at the loss of.* Ex: To grow rich at the expense of others, *S'enrichir aux dépens d'autrui.* He saved her life at the expense of his own, *Il lui sauva la vie aux dépens de la sienne.*)
18. The next time, *La prochaine fois.* (When Time refers to a number or repetition of times, it is translated *fois*; and when to a while, *temps.* Ex: I see him sometimes, *Je le vois quelque fois.* We stopped there for some time, *Nous y restâmes quelque temps.*)
23. To be at war, *être en guerre.*
38. To give a sprat to catch a herring, *Donner un œuf pour avoir un bœuf.*
35. How old are you? *Quel âge avez-vous?*
37. What do you mean? *Que voulez-vous dire?*
— In such a manner, *D'une telle manière.*
40. The height of presumption, *Le comble de la présomption.*

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42. To bear witness, *Témoigner*, or *Porter témoignage*.
42. To happen to overhear, *Entendre par hasard*, or *entr'ouïr par hasard*.
43. It is said (when commencing a sentence) *on dit*; (when not at the commencement) *dit on*. Ex: It is said he was killed, *on dit qu'il fut tué*. He was killed, it is said, *Il fut tué, dit-on*.
46. To have some sport, *S'amuser un peu*, or *se divertir un peu*.
47. On his return, *à son retour* (on his arrival, *à son arrivée*; on his departure, *à son départ*; on his entrance, *à son entrée*).
55. An old man with a white beard, *Un vieillard à barbe blanche*.
57. To laugh heartily, *rire de bon cœur*; more heartily, *de meilleur cœur*.
58. Some years ago, *il y a quelques années*, (ago, *il y a*, must be placed in French before the word or number expressing the time elapsed.)
63. To be for a long time, *être long-temps*.
64. At that time, *dans ce temps-là*.
— To take refuge, *Se réfugier*.
66. Such a paltry sum, *Une somme si chétive*, or *une si faible somme*.
67. To be petrified with horror, *Etre pétrifié d'horreur*.
70. Another account to settle, *Un autre compte à régler*.
75. You are at liberty, *Vous êtes en liberté*.
79. As much at sea as on shore, *Aussi bien sur mer que sur terre*.
85. Refused to let them in, *Refusa de les laisser entrer*.
89. To hurry off, *S'en aller en hâtant le pas*, or *s'en aller précipitamment*.
91. Having furnished himself with, *S'étant muni de*.
96. They were traced to, *On en suivit les traces jusqu'à*.
97. With whom he had slept, *Avec qui il avait couché*.

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98. To fall in with, *Rencontrer*.
102. Had scarcely recovered from, *Était à peine revenu de*.
106. To run up a wall, *Faire élever un mur*, or *une muraille*.
107. Wished them good sport, *Leur souhaita bonne chasse*.
110. Understand what you have to do before you set about it, *Comprenez ce que vous avez à faire avant de le commencer*.
111. My duty is to see them executed, *Mon devoir est de les exécuter*.
— It is not for me to, *Ce n'est pas à moi de*.
114. Go and find it, *Cherche, cherche là*.
115. Running about by himself, *Courir tout seul à l'entour*, or *courir ça et là*.
116. To stick up bills, *Poser des affiches*.
— For fear of, *De crainte de*.
117. On the occasion, *A cette occasion*.
— She had recognised him by, *Elle l'avait reconnu à*.
— On being asked, *Quand on lui demanda*.
119. Would change his faithful subjects to, *Changerait ses fidèles sujets en*.
— And make his throne, *Et ferait de son trône*.
120. To discharge (a servant), *Congédier*.
123. To remain idle (money), *Rester sans emploi, improductif*, (a person) *oisif*.
124. And boasted how he had, *Et se vanta de la façon dont il avait*.
126. At the same time, *En même temps*.
128. About five o'clock, *Vers cinq heures*, or *à cinq heures environ*.
— Here, take care of my horse, *Tenez ! ayez soin de mon cheval*.
131. To have another laugh at him, *Pour se moquer encore de lui*.
132. Our wit, *Notre bel esprit*.
134. We are not such fools, *Nous ne sommes pas si fous*.