CONVERSATIONS AND DIALOGUES UPON DAILY OCCUPATIONS AND ORDINARY TOPICS, DESIGNED TO FAMILIARIZE THE STUDENT WITH THOSE IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS WHICH MOST FREQUENTLY RECUR IN FRENCH CONVERSATION

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Conversations and Dialogues upon Daily Occupations and Ordinary Topics, Designed to Familiarize the Student with Those Idiomatic Expressions Which Most Frequently Recur in French Conversation by Gustave Chouquet

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# **GUSTAVE CHOUQUET**

CONVERSATIONS AND DIALOGUES UPON DAILY OCCUPATIONS AND ORDINARY TOPICS, DESIGNED TO FAMILIARIZE THE STUDENT WITH THOSE IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS WHICH MOST FREQUENTLY RECUR IN FRENCH CONVERSATION



## CONVERSATIONS AND DIALOGUES

UPOR

DAILY OCCUPATIONS AND ORDINARY TOPICS,

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FRENCH CONVERSATION.

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GUSTAVE CHOUQUET,
AUTHOR OF THE "GUIDE TO PRESCH COMPOSITION." MTC.

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### INTRODUCTION

#### DIALOGUE

#### DIALOGUE

Between Mr. Francais and a young lady, one of his pupils.

Good morning, Mr. Françals, I am very glad to see

You are very kind, Miss. I am most happy to see that you are well.

I am pretty well, it is true; but I am very cross.

You are very cross! You aurprise me much. And why so!

Because the phrase-book you brought me the other day.... But I do not dare to tell you what I think

I guess it without any difficulty: I weary you.

Not at all, you never weary me, Mr. Français; it is your book only.

Unfortunate authors I their books often play them such tricks! Well, what objection have you to my book!

Will you allow me to ex-

Entre M. Français et une de ses élèves.

Ah l bonjour, M. Français, je suis charmés de vous voir.

Vom étes trop bonne, Mademoiselle, et je suis ravi de voir que vous vous portez bien.

Je me porte nasez bica, il est vrai ; mais je suis pourtant de très mauvaise humeur.

Vous de mauvaise humeur! Vous m'étonner beaucoup. Et pourques étes-vous de mauvaise humeur?

Parca que le livre de phrases que vous m'avez apporté l'autre jour... Mais je n'œs pas vous dire ce que je pensa.

Je le devine sans psins ; je

your ennuie.

Pas du tout; vous no m'ennuyez jamais, vous M. Françuis; c'ast senlement votre livre.

Pauvres auteurs, lours livres leur jouent assez souvent ce mauvais tour! Voyons, que reprochez-vous au mien!

Me permettez-vous de vous

press to you freely what I

I shall be much obliged to

Well, Mr. Français, your phrase-book seems to me quite uninteresting.

It contains, however, every thing which it is necessary to learn, if you are auxious to make yourself familiar with French conversation.

There are in it, no doubt, a great variety of turns and periods, an infinite number of words in common use; but all these words are too much like a vocabulary, and this long series of unconnected phrases conveys no meaning to the mind.

You are right in your observations.

Believe me, Mr. Français, I should not take the liberty of making such observations, but that I am vexed every day at hearing them from witty and fastidious children.

Why, do children dare to criticise me? It is very well for you, Miss, who will soon be eighteen, and who have given me in many instances proofs of your judgment and of your proficiency; but it is hard to be exposed to the criticisms of little girls of twelve.

Why give them so irksome

exprimer librement ma pensée tout entière !

Je vous en serai fort obligé.

Eh bien i M. Français, votre livre de phrases me semble dépourvu d'intérêt.

Il contient pourtant tout ce qu'il faut apprendre quand on veut s'initier à la conversation française.

Il renferme sans aucun doute une grande variété de constructions de phrases et un nombre infini de mote usuels; mais tons ces mots-là santent trop le vocabulaire, et ces longues suites de phrases détachées ne disont absolument rien à l'esprit.

Vos observations na man-

quent pas de justeses.
Croyez-le bien, M. Français, je ne preodrais pas la liberté de vous les adresser, si je n'éprouvais un chagtin véritable à les entendre faire ahaque jour par de jeunes enfants aussi exigeantes que spirituelles.

Comment, de jeunes enfants caunt me critiquer? Vous, Mademoiselle, passe encore; vous allez avoir dix-huit ans et m'avez maintes fois donné des preuves de votre jugement et de votre savoir; mais il est dur de se voir exposé à la critique de petites filles de douze ana.

Pourquoi aussi les con-

a task, and not seek to please and is. ruct at the same time !

It is very easy to talk, Miss. I should like to see you obliged to compose dialogues for young persons!

Do you know how I would set about it i

I should be very curious to bear.

First, my dear teacher, I should not consent to put my name to a collection of maignificant, drawling phrases. Next, I should try to use sprightly, pleasing, natural, and elegant language; I would try to amuse my pupils, to captivate them; I would talk to them of pleasures, feetivals, amusements of all kinds in ahundance.

And you would not instruct them !

I beg your pardon ; I would endeavor, at the same time, to give them useful information.

That appears to me hardly possible, if you laugh always, When Instruction appears to pupile, with a smile constantly on her lips, the good old woman has her trouble for ber pains, and nobody profits by her discourses.

Well! Mr. Français, there is where we differ in opinion. You make instruction wrinkled up old woman, with a harsh and imperious voice,

damner à l'ennui, et ne pas chercher à leur plaire tout en les instruisant i

Vone en pariez bien à votre alse, Mademoiselle. Je voudrais vous voir obligée de composer des dialogues à l'usage des jeunes personnes l

Savez-vous comment je m'y prendrais [

Je serais curieux de l'ap prendre.

D'abord, mon cher maitre, je ne consentirais point à mettre mon nom à un recueil de phrases ineignificates et qui trainent partout. Eneuite l'aurais soin de parier aux élèves une langue jeune, si-mable, naturelle et élégaute ; je m'efforcerais de les amuser, de les captiver; je leur prodiguerais plaisirs, fêtes, rêcréations de tous genres.

· Et vous ne les instruiries

Je vous demando pardon; je les instruirais aussi.

Cela ne me paraît guère prasible, si vous riez toojours. Quand l'Instruction apparaît aux élèves le sourire constamment aux lèvres, la bonne visible en est pour ses frais, et persoune ne profite de ses discours.

Eh bien I M. Français, voilà en quei nous différens d'avis. Vous faites de l'instruction une vicille femme ridée, à la yoix dure et groudeuse, su severe in her deportment, and dressed in black from head to foot; you put in her mouth long, serious, abstract discourses, very unsuitable for young minds. On the contrary, I like instruction under the noble but smiling features of a young woman, with a sweet voice and an animated and expressive manner of conversing.

That is to say, you give yourself credit for being very

eloquent.

Not at all; but I have no objections to having teachers who are so.

Alas! he is not always aloquent who wishes to be so.

But I was not speaking of that rare and precious gift, to which I have not the elightest pretension.

However, Miss, you must allow that, to carry out your idea, it would be necessary....

To simply remember what is pleasing to young people.

I shall talk to them, then, of inattention, heedlessness, idleness, disposition to triffs,

Not in the least. Your pupils will rarely expose themselves to your reproaches, when they see how much pains you take to instruct them in an agreeable manner.

Are you very sure of that?
 Quite certain.

maintien aévèro, et habillée de noir de la tête aux pieds; vous lui prêtez de longs discours très sérieux, très abstraits et fort peu à la portée des jeunes esprita. Moi, au contraire, j'aime l'instruction sous les traits sobles mais souriants d'uns jeune femme à la voix douce, à la parole animée et expressive.

C'est-à-dire que vous vous décernes un brevet d'éloquenca.

Nullement; mais je ne m'oppose pas à ce que mes professeurs en sient pour moi.

Hélas! n'a pes qui veut de

l'éloquance l

Aŭsei ne parlais-je point de ce don si rare et si précieux suquel je n'ai pas la moindre prétention.

Cependant, Mademoiselle, convenes que pour répondre à votre pensée, il faudrait....

So rappeler simplement ce qui plaît sux jeunes persomes.

Je leur parlerai done inattention, étourderie, parcese, futilitéa

l'as le moins du monde, Vos élèves s'exposeront bien rarement à vos reproches, en voyant toute la peine que vous prenez pour les instruire d'une façon agréable.

En étes-vous bien sûre ! Tout-à-fait certaine.