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



### CONVERSATIONS AND DIALOGUES

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GUSTAVE CHOUQUET,
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### INTRODUCTION.

#### DIALOGUE



#### DIALOGUE

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

Good morning, Mr. Français, I am very glad to see you.

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 surprise 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! their books often play them such tricks! Well, what objection have you to my book?

Will you allow me to ex-

Entre M. Prançais et une de ses éléves.

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

Vous êtes trop bonne, Mademoiselle, et je suis ravi de voir que vous vous portez bien.

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

Vous, de mauvaise humeur! Vous m'étonnez beaucoup. Et pourquoi étes-vous de mauvaise humeur!

Psirce que le livre de phrases que vous m'avez apporté l'autre jour.... Mais je n'ose pas vous dire ce que je pense.

Je le devine sans peine; je vous ennuie.

Pas du tout; vous ne m'enmyez jamais, vous M. Français; c'est sculement votre livre.

Pauvres auteurs, leurs livres leur jouent assez souvent ce mauvais tour! Voyous, que reprochez-vous au mism

Ме реплененчам да часа

press to you freely what I think!

I shall be much obliged to you.

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 anxious to make yourself familiar with French conversation.

There are in it, no doubt, a great variety of turns and periode, 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 ahould 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 pensés tout entière l

Je vons en serai fort obligé.

Kh bien! M. Français, votre livre de phraces me semble dépourvu d'intérêt.

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

Il renferme sans aucen doute une grande variété de constructions de phrases et un nombre infini de mota usuela; mais tous ces motals sentent trop le vocabulaire, et ces longues suites de phrases détachées ne disent absolument rien à l'esprit.

Vos observations ne mancuent pas de justesse.

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

Comment, de jeunes enfants ceent me critiquer? Vous, Mademoiselle, passe encore; vous allez avoir dix-huit aus et m'avez maintes fois dooné 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 ans.

Pourquoi aussi les con-

task, and not seek to please
 and in-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 should be very curious to hear.

First, my dear teacher, I should not consent to put my name to a collection of insignificant, drawling phrases. Next, I should try to use sprightly, pleasing, natural, and elegant language; I would try to amuse my popils, to captivate them; I would talk to them of pleasures, fee-

tivals, amusements of all kinds in abundance.

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 pupils, with a smile constantly on her lips, the good old woman has her trouble for her pains, and nobody profits by her discourses.

Well! Mr. Français, there is where we differ in opinion. You make instruction a wrinkled up old woman, with a harsh and imperious voice, damner à l'enhui, et ne pas chercher à leur plaire tout en les instruisant !

Vous en parlez bien à votre aise, Mademoiselle. Je voudrais vous voir obligée de composer des dialogues à l'usage des jeunes personnes!

Savez-vous comment je m'y

prendrais t

Je serais curieux de l'ap prendre.

D'abord, mon cher maître, je ne concentirais point à mettre men som à un recueil de phrases insignifiantes et qui trainent partout. Knaute j'aurais soin de parler aux élèves une langue jeune, ai-mable, naturelle et élégante; je m'efforcerais de les amuser, de les captiver; je leur prodiguerais plaisirs, fêtes, récréations de tous genres.

Et vous ne les instruirles past

Je vone demande perdon; je les instruirais aussi.

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

Eh bien! M. Français, voilà en quoi none différent d'avia. Vous faites de l'instruction une vieille femme rides, à la voix dure et grondense, su