

Our French Lesson

AVIS A TOUS CEUX QUI VEULENT APPRENDRE LE FRANÇAIS.

La nouvelle direction de l'Abeille qui a à cœur la conservation et la propagation de la belle langue française en Louisiane a résolu de donner aux Américains l'opportunité d'apprendre le français pour la modique somme de 75 sous par mois, montant de l'abonnement mensuel au journal. Notre nouvelle méthode permettra également aux Louisianais désirant se perfectionner dans l'étude plus complète de la langue de leurs ancêtres, de pouvoir la faire avec la plus grande facilité et sans perdre un temps précieux que trop souvent dérangent leurs affaires.

Nous avons en effet obtenu de Monsieur M. D. Berlitz, chevalier de la légion d'honneur, officier d'Académie, l'autorisation de publier chaque jour dans nos colonnes une leçon tirée de sa méthode dont la réputation est mondiale.

Nous continuons aujourd'hui la publication de la première leçon.

Afin de permettre aux débutants de pouvoir comprendre parfaitement la méthode, nous publierons en Anglais les notices explicatives qui accompagnent chaque leçon.

Toute personne n'ayant pour une raison quelconque suivre nos premières leçons aura toujours la ressource de se les procurer en nous demandant de lui envoyer les numéros du journal correspondant aux leçons qui lui manquent.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS WHO WOULD LEARN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.

As the conservation and the propagation of the French language in Louisiana are among the prime desiderata cherished by the new administration of the New Orleans Bee, it has been decided to inaugurate a system whereby Americans will be enabled to study French for the small sum of seventy-five cents per month—amount of one month's subscription to the paper. The published exercises will be of great help to Louisianians who would wish to gain more accurate understanding of the idioms and grammatical construction of the language of their ancestors, without taxing either

their time or their intellectual forces.

By permission of Prof. M. D. Berlitz, Knight of the Legion of Honor, Officer of the French Academy, we are publishing in the columns of the Bee, a series of graduated exercises from Prof. Berlitz's work, whose excellence is recognized the world over.

We shall continue these lessons every day.

In order to facilitate the task for beginners, we will accompany the explanatory notes with the English equivalent.

Any persons who, for some reason or other, may miss the first lessons, can obtain back numbers of the paper, either by calling at our office or requesting that they be forwarded by mail.

The advantages claimed for this method are:

(a) The lessons are mostly based on object-teaching; this results in the students associating perception with the foreign expressions; he thus is soon able to think in the foreign idiom.

The method is designed:

(1) For self-instruction: The student in such case reads over aloud, and several times, each lesson and then asks himself the questions of the book, answering them.

(2) For reciprocal instruction in clubs or parties of friends, each member alternately taking the role of the teacher, asking the questions and letting the others alternately answer. This has the advantage over self-instruction that the ear is more thoroughly drilled in catching the foreign sounds by hearing other people's voices, and, as several heads know more than one, each student will be able in his turn to correct mistakes made by his fellow-students.

(b) Nearly all the lessons are in shape of conversation, in order to continually drill the student's ear and tongue.

(c) The most useful is always taught first, so that the student's mind is not encumbered with rules and word forms that he cannot immediately use and will forget again before reading them.

(d) Where rules are to be given, they are illustrated by striking examples, so that even those who are not good grammarians can fully understand them.

(e) The pronunciation of all difficult words or expressions is carefully transcribed, so that the students need not constantly rely on their teacher, and can, if necessary, progress entirely without him.

(f) All idioms or other diffi-

culties are carefully explained in order to emancipate the intelligent students from their teacher.

Suite du morceau précédent.

B. — Quel en est le prix ?

Le commis. — Ils coûtent sept francs la paire.

B. — C'est trop cher.

Le commis. — En voici d'une qualité un peu inférieure.

B. — Combien ceux-ci ?

Le commis. — Cinq francs.

Nous en avons qui sont bien meilleur marché, mais ils ne sont pas si bons.

B. — Bien, je vais prendre ceux-ci.

Le commis. — Voilà, monsieur. Voulez-vous payer à la caisse, si vous plait.

B. — Avec plaisir.

Le caissier. — Merci, monsieur.

Swit du morsoh press-saidah.

B. — Non voah-lah d-noo-voh dah' lah rü. — Oo alloh'-noo mai'tnah' ?

A. — Ilay b-yai'toh see-z-ör.

Rut-toor-noh' z-ah lohtel pour lu dinai.

B. — Sai slah; ai kù froh'-noo z-apprai dee-nai ?

A. — Nooz-ee-roh' passai lah swah-rai oh Taiatr-frah'sai, si voo l'voole.

B. — Avveek plaizeer.

Continuation of the preceding piece.

Swit du morsoh press-saidah'.

B. — Kell ah' n-ai l-pree ?

Lö komee. — Ill koot si' fräh' lah pair.

B. — Sai tro shair.

Lö komee. — Ah' vohssee diñ kal lee-fai u' pô ai' fair-ye'r.

B. — Koh'b-yai' sô-sî.

Lö komee. — Sôi' fräh'. Non z-ah' n-avvo'h' kee soh' b'yai' mai-ye'r-marr-shai, mai-z-ill nô' soh' pah' si' böh'.

B. — Byai' zhü vai prah'de sô si.

Lö komee. — Voah-lah, müs-yü. Voodai-voo' pai-yai ah lah kais, sill voo plai.

Lö kaisz-yai. — Maissee, müs-yo.

Continuation of the preceding piece.

B. — What is their price (lit.: "the price of them") ?

The salesman. — They cost seven francs **g** (lit.: "the") paf.

B. — It is too dear.

The salesman. — Here are some of a little inferior quality.

B. — How much are those ?

The salesman. — Five francs. — We have some which are much cheaper, (1), but they are not so good.

B. — Very well, I am going to take those.

The salesman. — Here they are sir. Will you pay at the cashier, if you please.

The cashier. — Thank you, sir.

Suite du morceau précédent.

B. — Nous voilà de nouveau dans la rue. — Où allons-nous maintenant ?

A. — Il est bientôt six heures.

(1) "Cheap" is translated by "bon marché"; "cheaper" by "meilleur marché."

Retournons à l'hôtel pour le dîner.

B. — C'est cela; et que ferons-nous après dîner ?

A. — Nous irons passer la soirée au Théâtre-Français, si vous le voulez.

B. — Avec plaisir.

Swit du morsoh press-saidah'.

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