

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 le faire avec la plus grande facilité et sans perdre un temps précieux que trop souvent dévorent 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 pu 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, has missed 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 difficulties are carefully explained in order to emancipate the intelligent students from their teacher.

CHEZ LES BRIGANDS.

(Le subjonctif après les locutions impersonnelles n'expriment ni certitude ni probabilité.)

Edouard et Arthur sont dans une cavité bien humide, bien sombre, couchés sur une poignée de paille et ils cherchent le moyen de s'en évader, comme ils sont échappés du collège.

Il faut, dit Arthur, que nous fassions semblant de dormir et que nous ronflions même très fort pour leur ôter tout soupçon.

En effet, les deux enfants se mettent à ronfler à qui mieux mieux, si fort même qu'ils éveillent ceux des brigands qui sont déjà endormis.

Est-il possible que ces guillards-là puissent dormir d'un si bon sommeil et que la peur ne les tienne pas éveillés? se dit le chef; il est rare que des enfants de leur âge soient si courageux.

Il est bon que je m'assure si leur sommeil est bien réel... Il se peut qu'ils dorment cependant, voyons! et il leur apprête la lampe de la figure. Un renflement plus sonore s'échappe du gosier d'Edouard et étaint la lampe.

Diable! dit le brigand, il est certain que celui-ci dort d'un profond sommeil. Voyons l'autre. Il ramone la lampe et s'approche d'Arthur. Celui-ci sent l'haleine du brigand sur sa figure; mais il ne peut pas son froid, il murmure tout bas, comme dans un rêve: Oui, bonne maman, j'ai été bien sage. Et ses deux bras entourent le cou de son terrible gardien, qui sourit à l'idée d'être appelé maman. Il est clair que celui-là aussi dort comme une marmotte.

Mais réfléchissons un peu, continue-t-il, que puis-je faire de ces deux enfants? Il est probable que les parents vont mettre la police sur nos traces, et il est difficile que nous échappions à ses recherches.

Il vaut donc mieux que nous relâchions nos deux prisonniers. Cette résolution une fois prise, notre voleur prudent ordonne à ses hommes de renfermer Edouard dans un tonneau défoncé d'un bout, mais qu'ils renforcent aussitôt l'autre.

D'un coup de pied, l'un des voleurs envoie rouler le tonneau en bas de la colline et le pauvre Edouard, peu habitué à ce genre de locomotion, perd bientôt connaissance.

Very damp (b'yai' n-ü-meet).

Dark (soh'br). Lying down (koo-shat). A handful of straw (pwah-fai d-ph).

'A way to make their escape (15 mwah-yai' d-sah'n ai-vaddai). That we should feign sleep (kü noo fass-yoh' sah-blah' d-dor-meer).

And even snore very loudly (k-noo hor-flee-yoh'). To prevent them from entertaining any suspicion, lit. to remove all suspicion from them (loz oh-tai too soap-soh'). Begin to (s-mett-ah).

"In emulation of one another (idiomatic). "Awaken (ev-vay'). These fellows were (gi-yahr lah). "Awake (ev-vai-yai'). It is well that I assure myself (kü zhmah-sür). "Rise (rai-ell). Let us see (voah-yoh'). He puts the lamp near their face (lah-p).

"A louder snoring (roh'fl-mah' plu sun-oh'). "Throat (pos-yai). Puts out (et-tai'). The reue (dy-abl). He lights up again (rah-lim). Breath (kah-lain). Coolness (sah-froah). Dream (raiv).

"Very good, in speaking of children (sazh). "Surround the neck (ah-toor l' koo). "Keeper (gar-d-yai'). Who smiles at the idea of being called mamma (kee soot-ah lee-dai dairt applai-mammah). Like a dog, lit. a marmot. Put the police on our track (lah poliss sur noh trass).

"Their researches (ru-shair-sh). It is better then for us to release (ill voh doh' myo kü noo ru-lah-shyoh'). Once, To put Ed. into (rah'fair-mai).

"Cask (tün-noh). Broken at one and (dai-foh'sai). Repair at once (rufoh's). With a kick (dú' koo d-p'ay). Rolling (troo-lai). Down the hill (ah' bah olah kolleen). Little accustomed to that kind of locomotion (pô abbee-tü-ai ah s-zhah'r dû lo-kos-yoh'). Soon loses his sense (künnaï-sab's).

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