

MACMILLAN'S
PROGRESSIVE FRENCH READER

I
FIRST YEAR

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FIRST YEAR

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MACMILLAN'S PROGRESSIVE FRENCH READER

I.—FIRST YEAR

CONTAINING

TALES, HISTORICAL EXTRACTS, LETTERS, DIALOGUES,
FABLES, BALLADS, NURSERY SONGS, ETC.

WITH TWO VOCABULARIES

I.—IN THE ORDER OF SUBJECTS

II.—IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

A NEW EDITION, THOROUGHLY REVISED, AND ENLARGED BY
A SERIES OF IMITATIVE EXERCISES

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

AN elementary notion of regular French Accidence is all that is required for construing the first stories contained in this Reader. The sooner, however, the pupil masters the irregular part of Accidence, the better, of course, he will be able to help himself and to dispense with the tedious process of continual reference to the Notes and Vocabulary. As far as p. 29, all the words and phrases will be found in the first Vocabulary (p. 95) in the order of the text; from p. 29, only the Notes referring to grammatical difficulties and to the subject-matter will be found in the order of subjects (pp. 131—154), whilst for all new words, and old words forgotten, the student is referred to the second (Alphabetical) Vocabulary (p. 155 to the end).

There are a few constructions peculiar to French—as compared with English, and consequently rather puzzling for a beginner—which are of so frequent occurrence that he will do well, as they occur, to make himself master of them once for all. For the convenience of those students who prefer taking the bull by the horns to crossing and recrossing the asses' bridge, these peculiarities of idiom have been

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brought together and explained at the end of this Introduction :—

- (1) Une maison qu'**habitait** une famille entière. *A house which a whole family tenanted, or A house tenanted by a whole family.*

The Verb is often put before the Subject in dependent clauses ; especially in those beginning with *que* (*qu'*) or *où*. Compare p. 1, l. 2 ; p. 14, l. 11 ; p. 38, l. 30 ; &c.

- (2) Le bossu **dont** on veut aujourd'hui venger le trépas. *The hunchback whose death they are going to avenge to-day.*

After *dont*, the Object is placed at the end of the sentence, whilst in English the Object is placed immediately after *whose*.

- (3) Il ne pourra **les** refuser. *He will not be able to refuse them.*
Il ne s'**en** apercevra pas. *He will not be aware of it.*
Il **y** laissa tomber son bâton. *He dropped his staff into it.*
Il **se** dit. *He said to himself.*

When the Direct or Indirect Object of a Verb is a *Personal Pronoun*, this Pronoun is placed before the Verb, unless the latter is in the Imperative Affirmative. Comp. p. 1, l. 2, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 18, &c.

- (4) Vous vous êtes assez vengé. *You have avenged yourself enough.*
Ils **sont** sortis ensemble. *They have gone out together.*
Elles **seraient** sorties hier. *They would have gone out yesterday.*

All *Reflexive Verbs* and most *Verbs of Motion* are conjugated in the Compound Tenses with the Auxiliary Verb *être*, *to be*. Compare p. 2, l. 9 ; p. 3, l. 7 ; p. 21, l. 9.

- (5) J'aurais **pu** oublier. *I might (could) have forgotten.*
J'aurais **dû** oublier. *I should (ought to) have forgotten.*

The *Conditional Past* of *pouvoir* and *devoir* is formed in French like that of other Verbs, whilst in English these

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two Auxiliary Verbs have a construction of their own. Compare p. 21, l. 15, &c.

- (6) **Après** avoir regardé autour de lui. *After having looked about him.*
Avant de partir, il dit.... *Before starting, he said....*
Il n'a personne pour l'assister. *He has nobody to help him.*

After all Prepositions, except *en*, the Verb is put in the *Infinitive*, whilst in English, except after *to*, the Verb is put in the Present Participle.

- (7) On le **fit** sortir. *They ordered him to go out.*
Il **fit** équiper un vaisseau. *He ordered a ship to be fitted out.*
Je **fais** relier mes livres. *He had a ship fitted out.*
I get my books bound.

When a Verb is the Complement (Extension) of another Verb, it is put in the Infinitive *Active* and placed immediately after the first Verb. The Verb *faire*, *to make*, *to do*, thus complemented by another Verb in the Infinitive, generally answers to the English *to order*, *to cause*, *to have*, *to get*, &c., either followed, as in French, by an Infinitive Active, or also, contrary to French usage, by an Infinitive Passive or by a Past Participle.