CHAMBAUD'S GUIDE TO THE FRENCH TONGUE, CONTAINING THE ART OF FRENCH PRONUNCIATION; AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE USE OF EVERY FRENCH GRAMMAR

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Trieste

CHAMBAUD'S GUIDE

TO

THE FRENCH TONGUE,

CONTAINING

(AGREEABLY TO LEWIS CHAMBAUD'S METHOD)

THE ART OF FRENCH PRONUNCIATION;

AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE

USE OF EVERY FRENCH GRAMMAR.

WITH EXERCISES AND CONSTRUCTIONS.

BY

J. B. CHAMBAUD,

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MDCCCLII.

éducation complète sans la connaissance approfondie de la langue et de la littérature Françaises.

Il était digne de V. E., qui tient à ce qu'il y a de plus glorieux dans notre pays, d'accorder son bienveillant patronage à une méthode consacrée par le temps, et qui rend de si grands services aux personnes désireuses de s'initier dans la connaissance de la langue Française.

Je prie V. E. de reçevoir les sincères remerciements de

Son très humble et
très obéissant serviteur,

J. B. CHAMBAUD.

LONDRES; *Février* 1852.

PROFESSOR J. B. CHAMBAUD, 68, *Newman Street, Oxford Street, gives French Lessons at the undermentioned Charges.*

PRIVATE LESSONS, OF ONE HOUR EACH.

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A Single Pupil	A Month, or 8 Lessons	At the Professor's Home (each Lesson, 2*s.* 6*d.*)	1	0	0
		Abroad, within the Three Miles' Circle from the Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand (each Lesson, 3*s.*)	1	4	0
	Six Months, or 48 Lessons,—the First Part of the Course	At Home (each Lesson, 2*s.*)	4	16	0
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CHAMBAUD'S

GUIDE TO THE FRENCH TONGUE.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

The following pages are not submitted to the English public as developing any new or original method for the attainment of the French Language. The impossible is not aimed at by the author: he is too sensible of the important parts which Capacity and Disposition play, in the acquisition of a foreign tongue, ever to pretend to displace them by untried means, even though these means be designated by such imposing words as 'Original Method,' or offered as a substitute for the absence of a practised Teacher. The fact is, there are difficulties incidental to the position itself,—that is, possessing the English student with a knowledge of the French language,—which can only be surmounted by the approved system of experience, viz., by diligent study and close application. All that is purposed to be accomplished is the removal of some of those impediments which so constantly obstruct the free path of the scholar, giving him proper directions, whereby he may bring into use the various published Grammars of the French Language.

An acquaintance with the French language was at all times greatly appreciated by the English people. The History of England evidences that most of her greatest statesmen and scientific writers professed to have a knowledge of the tongue in question; indeed, where such an attainment has not been possessed, the historian is often found to make mention of the fact, as though it were one of sufficient importance to justify his comment. In our own times, thanks to the genius of the schoolmaster, and to the interchange of thought and opinion, nation with nation, the necessity of being able to speak and write the French language is no longer confined to the few who govern, but is alike felt by every disciplined mind in all classes of the community.

The study of the French language is somewhat arduous to the foreigner,—not so much, perhaps, in its grammatical rules, as in the knowledge of a pure pronunciation. Therefore, it speaks most favorably for the industry and devotion of the English people to find so many of its members speaking and writing, with critical accuracy, the language of their neighbours. Wherever such an accomplishment prevails, the author is quite sure, that it has not been obtained by recourse to 'New and speedy Systems,'[1] but by close attention to directions and observations similar to those noticed in these pages.

Admitting, then, the difficulties in the way, the student who longs for some patent scheme to remove them may lay aside this Guide, for assuredly he will not find one of such pretence in it; but if he be willing to follow a practised and learned

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[1] LEWIS CHAMBAUD, nearly a century since, wrote these words:—"It is amazing to see how apt people are to deceive themselves, and how easy they are to be imposed on by designing, crafty men, who improve the general simplicity to their own private gains."

man, such an one, for example, as LEWIS CHAMBAUD, the instructions here given will be to him as so many stepping-stones, materially assisting him in his desire to possess a knowledge of the French Language by a sound and correct method.

I. SPEAKING AND GRAMMAR.

To speak, in the absolute meaning of the word, is to make one's self understood by Nature; but the art of speaking, as applied to the human race, is composed of sounds or voices, as distinct from man's ingenuity in forming characters or signs, which are named—Letters, Syllables, Words, Phrases, and Sentences. The art of Speaking is taught to mankind by a series of processes which, philosophically, require to be divided into four parts:—The teaching of, first, the Sounds or Voices, which constitute the Spoken language. Secondly, the conventional characters or signs of the Sounds, which signs constitute the Written language. Thirdly, the Words composed by the combination of sounds, *i.e.*, parts of speech: and Fourthly, the use of these Words to make known the meaning of man's thoughts: the last two teachings being applicable to the Spoken as well as to the Written languages.

The philosophical range is always strictly kept up, with, however, an important discrepancy between the tuition of Native Tongues and that of Foreign ones. In the former, children learn the larger part of the sounds long before they are able to know the corresponding signs; so that when the time comes for regular tuition, this larger part can be laid aside, and the signs only require to be taught. In the latter,