

In order that this "imitative" method, which has the great advantage of being progressive, might be tried, I have selected a number of easy and varied poems by standard authors.

I have preferred poetry to prose because the former affords better opportunities for conversation and is less difficult to memorize, and also because French poetry is merely the purest prose set in rhyme.

EXAMPLE

Free Composition.

*La petite Laura s'admirait dans la glace;
La mère dit:—Remets ce miroir à sa place*

This sentence can be turned into a number of other sentences which will train the pupils in composition, grammar and conversation. An exercise of this kind develops in the learner quickness, presence of mind, observation, accuracy and ease:

- Laura remet le miroir à sa place—*
- La petite Laura admirait sa mère.*
- La glace est à sa place.*
- Ce miroir et cette glace sont à Laura.*
- Etc., etc.

Question and Answer.

The same sentence can also be made the subject of many questions.

- Q.—*Qui est Laura ?*
- A.—*Une petite fille.*
- Q.—*Que faisait elle ?*
- A.—*Elle s' admirait.*
- Q.—*Dans quoi s' admirait elle ?*
- A.—*Dans le miroir, dans la glace.*
- Q.—*Où se trouvait la glace ?*
- A.—*A sa place.*
- Q.—*Laura était elle seule ?*
- A.—*Elle était avec sa mère.*
- Q.—*Que lui dit sa mère ?*
- A.—*Elle lui dit—Remets ce miroir à sa place—etc.*