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JOHN FRANCIS DE LA HARPE,

A CONVERTED FRENCH INFIDEL.

It is always gratifying to a believer in Christ to witness, or hear of, the triumphs of divine grace in the conversion of sinners, and especially of those who like Paul had been "exceedingly mad" against the Saviour and his cause. We are old enough to remember when the celebrated man whose name stands at the head of this article was in the height of his popularity as a lecturer on General Literature at the Lyceum in Paris, and of the surprise and delight with which we read from his lectures several passages which bore the stamp of piety and devotion, so contrary to what was generally current in a land at that time overwhelmed with anarchy and irreligion.

We have no doubt our readers will peruse with interest the following account of this remarkable individual, as given in an English Magazine, and reprinted in the "CHURCH" Newspaper.

La Harpe was born in Paris on the 20th of November, 1739. His parents, though of respectable families, were poor, and he was left an unprovided-for orphan at the age of

seven. But he had already evinced extraordinary intelligence; and being recommended to M. Asselin, principal of the college of Harcourt, was received among his pupils. His talents were now cultivated with diligence. He distinguished himself among his companions by the excellence of his compositions, and for two successive years carried away every prize. He displayed a decided taste for satire, and was accused of composing ludicrous verses on M. Asselin. He protested his innocence, but was not credited; and was accordingly committed for some months to a house of correction. The confession afterwards made in one of his publications, was, that he had composed some imprudent couplets on certain persons in the college, which his comrades had collected and enlarged by additions of their own; but that he never had the slightest intention of giving offence.

His education being finished, he became connected with several literary characters, among whom was Diderot, a confirmed atheist. In 1769 he published "Heroic Epistles,"