

PAGE

121. ² *Je me...écritures.*] I have taken upon myself to do a part of his writing, i.e. accounts. *Écritures*, the books in a house of business.
- ³ *En parcourant...lui.*] Running over the accounts which I had drawn up for him.
- ⁴ *De proche...parler.*] From one thing to another, I had come to speak to him.
- ⁵ *le gîte...gibier.*] The lair made one know the game, i.e. you judged a man by his house.
- ⁶ *j'ai bien préjugé.*] I have prejudged rightly.
- ⁷ *une rencontre...jeunesse.*] An adventure which dates from the first years of my youth.
122. ¹ *Orléans.*] Chief town of the department of the Loiret, one of the oldest cities in France, celebrated for the many historical events which have taken place in it and for its monuments.
- ² *Montargis.*] A town in the department of the Loiret, near a forest of the same name.
- ³ *après...recouvrement.*] After having received a payment, i.e. the amount of a debt.
- ⁴ *il prit...traverse.*] He took a cross-road.
- ⁵ *de manquer...diligence.*] Of missing the passing of the diligence, i.e. failing to catch the coach.
- ⁶ *Le lieu...sûr.*] The spot was not considered safe.
- ⁷ *L'oreille au guet.*] With the ear on the watch, i.e. listening.
- ⁸ *se dressait...distance.*] Stood at a short distance.
123. ¹ *Pithiviers.*] A town in the department of the Loiret, a very old city, fortified in the Middle Ages.
- ² *en une...clerc.*] Into a drizzling rain, which was beginning to wet the young clerk through.
- ³ *Celle-ci...forteresse.*] This had a false look of a fortress, i.e. it looked somewhat like a fortress.
- ⁴ *d'un mur...élevé.*] By a pretty high boundary wall.
- ⁵ *d'une...clair-voie.*] Of a large open-worked gate.
124. ¹ *ni gerbes...batterie.*] Neither wheat-sheaves heaped-up, awaiting threshing, i.e. ready for threshing.
- ² *où...barioles.*] Where variegated pumpkins creep along.