

the greatest kings are born, and to be educated as only the best kings are educated." (When we recall the general impression of most people in regard to the Court of Louis XIV., what now follows might be deemed the outcome of a hardihood more than forensic, on the part of Frederick Leonard; but we have to remember that it was not until after the death of the good and virtuous Queen Maria Theresa that the Court of Louis became so very scandalous.) "Was there ever in any court," Leonard boldly asks, "a more religious discipline? To revere God and your parents; to observe moderation in all things; to spurn adulation; to render to every one the praise due to him; to receive every one with benignity and liberality; to be diligent in the cultivation of letters, and earnestly to embrace every means of attaining to the highest accomplishments;—these are the admonitions of wisdom to which you willingly listen and spontaneously conform. Hence I am easily led to hope that you will not disdain this trivial offering, such as it is: your humanity, which is of the highest—your love of literary study, which is ever nourished and increased by daily use, will not permit you to do so. Accept then, most serene Dauphin, the comedies of a most charming poet, wherein may be found the choicest illustrations of Latin speech, and also a living picture of human manners, together with the polished pleasantries, not solely of this particular comic writer, but of those leading men of the Roman commonwealth, Lælius and Scipio [who were traditionally believed to have inspired and revised the plays of Terence]. May the Fates long preserve you to the King and to this realm; and make you equal to Louis the Great, your sire—greater they cannot make you. Such are the prayers, most serene Dauphin, of your most humble servant, Frederick Leonard."

This might probably be deemed enough of Frederick Leonard; but as his Preface, which immediately follows the Epistle Dedicatory, gives a general account of the scheme of the Delphin classics, I am tempted to translate it also; for, although we are already acquainted with most of the particulars; yet presented to us here in the tone and under the excitement of the moment, the narrative will probably prove characteristic and curious. Leonard thus begins: [it will be observed that scholars in those days were trained to be rather adroit rhetoricians.] "I shall not delay you, O benevolent reader, with unseasonable laudations of Terence or any high-flown commendations of the commentary now placed before you. With the one you are already sufficiently well acquainted: as to the other, it is for your judgment to pronounce. For neither am I the man to ask you to prejudice for the sake of a magniloquent speech; nor, were I to make such a demand, are you the man blindly to assent to it. Of this simply I wish to advise you: the cause why, and the design with which, so many Latin authors provided with comments and notes are just now simultaneously coming forth to the public view; and what is likely to be the future use to the republic of letters of these results of study: so that the rationale of the entire undertaking may be clear to you, and I may be regarded in the light of an expounder rather than in that of a mere eulogist." [He then begins his account of the inception and progress of the Delphin series *ab ovo*.] "The instant," he says, "that Louis the Great received from the bosom of his most august queen, a Dauphin, he believed it to be a duty at once incumbent on him, to act both as a father and as a king, and, although at the time he was excessively occupied with great public events, he turned his thoughts immediately towards his household