

PREFACE.

IN the summer of 1895, when about to embark at Boulogne-sur-Mer for the homeward voyage, I asked a bookseller to select for me the book best suited for amusement, or consolation, on shipboard. He gave me the volume of *Contes Fantastiques* from which the following stories are selected, and his choice was well approved by all of us who then read the charming volume.

The following selection is made for early and easy reading—or for sight-reading—with classes not quite beginners in French. In view of this purpose some paragraphs or sentences which might present difficulty are occasionally omitted or abridged; but the language of the original is everywhere strictly retained, and nowhere is the connection broken. The Notes and Vocabulary, it is hoped, will be found sufficient for their purpose.

The simple and graphic style of these stories, with their pleasing narrative and brilliant yet delicate fancy, may be especially commended to young readers.

E. S. J.

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE,
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