

QUATRIÈME LEÇON

Un feu auquel cuisaient des légumes.
A fire to which (on which) were cooking vegetables.

Ce sont des expressions dont se sert cet auteur. (23)
These are expressions whereof (of which) this author serves himself (uses).

The Past Tense

Remember that the Perfect tense in French answers to two past tenses — the Perfect proper (i. e. *I have given*) and the Preterite (*I gave or did give*). The context will determine which tense is meant. Thus: J'AI COURU HIER = *I ran yesterday* not *I have run yesterday*. J'AI ÉCRIT HIER, = *I wrote yesterday*, not *I have written yesterday*. The student should accustom himself to use this tense readily. Here are a few examples:

I saw, or did see,	j'ai vu.	He said,	il a dit.
I gave,	j'ai donné.	He told me, etc.,	il m'a dit que, etc.
I finished,	j'ai fini.	He did that,	il a fait cela.
I brought,	j'ai apporté.	We smoked,	nous avons fumé.
I saw him,	je l'ai vu.	He said it (so),	il l'a dit.
I finished it,	je l'ai fini.	He told me so,	il me l'a dit.
He did it,	il l'a fait.	We found it,	nous l'avons trouvé
You forgot.	vous avez oublié.	You saw me,	vous m'avez vu.

You did not see me, vous ne m'avez pas vu. (24)
Did you see me? m'avez-vous vu?

The Infinitive

Most verbs require the preposition *de* when they are followed by an Infinitive. A few however omit the preposition, as will be seen in the following examples:

Il vient voir.	Nous allons voir.	Je peux (je sais) lire.
He comes to see.	We are going to see.	I can (I know how) to read.
Je veux (désire, préfère) mourir.	Il espère (compte) partir demain.	
I want (desire, prefer) to die.	He hopes (expects) to leave to-morrow.	

(23) Dont is generally used instead of DUQUEL (i. e. DU QUEL) in conjunctive sentences.

(24) English uses *did* in the negative or interrogative (i. e. *Did he see. He did not see*), and also for *emphasis*, but this peculiarity must not be imitated in French.