

COMPOSITION ANGLAISE.

The Friars and the Knight.

Two friars of Paris, travelling in the depth of winter, came at the first hour of the night, fatigued, covered with mud, and wet with rain, to the gate of a house where they hoped to receive hospitality, not knowing that it belonged to a knight who hated all friars, and who for twenty years had never made his confession. The mother of the family replied to their petition, "I know not, good fathers, what to do. If I admit you under our roof, I fear my husband; and if I send you away cruelly in this tempestuous night, I shall dread the indignation of God. Enter, and hide yourselves till my husband returns from hunting, and has supped, for then I shall be able to supply you secretly with what is needful."

Shortly, the husband returns, sups joyfully, but perceiving that his wife is sad desires to know the cause. She replies that she dares not disclose it. Pressed and encouraged, she at length relates what has happened, adding, that she fears God's judgment, seeing that his servants are afflicted with cold and hunger, while they are feasting at their ease. The knight, becoming more gentle, orders them to be led forth from their hiding-place, and to be supplied with food.

The poor friars came forth and drew near the fire, and when he sees their emaciated faces, humid raiment, and their feet stained with blood, the hand of the Lord is upon him, and from a lion he becomes a lamb. With his own hands he washes their feet, places the table, and prepares their beds bringing in fresh straw. After the supper, with altered look and tone, he addresses the elder friar, and asks whether a shameless sinner, who had not confessed since many years can hope for pardon from God.

"Yea, in sooth," replied the friar; "hope in the Lord and do good, and he will deal with thee according to his mercy; for in whatever day the sinner repents, he will remember his iniquity no more. The contrite host declares that he will not then defer any longer approaching the sacraments. "This very night," said he, "I will unburden my conscience lest my soul should be required of me." The

friar, however little suspecting danger of death advised him to wait till morning. All retired to rest; but during the night the friar became alarmed, rose, prostrated himself on the earth and besought God to spare the sinner.

In the morning, however, the master of the house was found dead. The man of God, judging from what had passed, consoled the widow, declared that in his dreams he had been assured of the salvation of her husband; and the man was buried honorably, bells were tolled, and mass was sung, and the friars departed on their way.

It is to instances of this kind that St. Jerome alludes in his beautiful epistle to Lacta, where he says, "A holy and faithful family must needs sanctify its infidel chief."

That man cannot be far from entering upon the career of faith who is surrounded by sons and grandsons enlightened by the faith.

ARITHMÉTIQUE.

I. Si 13 hommes construisent un mur de 28 pieds de hauteur en 15 jours, combien faudra-t-il d'hommes pour construire un mur de 32 pieds de hauteur en 8 jours ?

Réponse : 135 hommes.

Solution :

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Pieds } 28 : 32 \\ \text{Jours } 8 : 15 \end{array} \right\} :: 63 h : x$$

Simplifiant, $1 : 15 :: 9 : x$

$$15 \times 9 = 135.$$

II. Quel est le coût de 96 acres, 1 vergée, 14 perches, à £7 — 11s — 5½ d. par acre ?

Réponse : £729 — 9 — 7½

Solution :

$$\begin{array}{r} £ 7 - 11 - 5\frac{1}{2} \\ 96 \end{array}$$

$$\hline 726 - 18 - 0$$

$1 v = \frac{1}{2}$	$1 - 17 - 10\frac{5}{16} =$	$\frac{400}{1280}$
$10 p = \frac{1}{2}$	$9 - \frac{537}{64} =$	$\frac{740}{1280}$
$4 p = \frac{1}{10}$	$3 - \frac{969}{160} =$	$\frac{552}{1280}$
$\frac{1}{2} p = \frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{5889}{1280} =$	$\frac{869}{1280}$

$$\hline £729 - 9 - 7$$

$$\frac{1}{1790}$$