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The Epistell of Andzewe Baynton.

Andzewe Baynton/ to the ryght noble and excellent
yong géttilmen/ my lozde Thomas Hawarde/ my lozde GERALDE/
and maister Charles Blont/sonne and heyre to the lozde
Montrope / his late scole felowes.

Where as I perceyue by your ryght louyng let-
ters that diuers parsons / whiche were moche despyous of
our maisters Esclarissement de la langue francoyse/ afoze
he had presented it to the kyng; byghnesse. Nowe that his
boke is published & to be had amongest the printars/ whan
they loke vpon the greatnesse of the volume/ they be thereby in party dis-
couraged/ and thynke that the moze the worke is in byghnesse/ the great-
tas labours must of the lernars be therto required. But I am sure /
that you whiche here in knowe our maisters hole intente and consyde-
ration/ haue at the full/ satisfied and quieted all suche parsons/ whiche
you haue herde vnder that maner reason / for as you haue well by hym
perceyued/ he hath willyngly and a purpose/ moued of good and tendre
zele/ taken in this matter the greattar paynes vpon him/ to ease and for-
ther all maner parsons of our nation / whiche be despyous of that lan-
gayge/ of theyr great paynes and studies/ whiche els of necessite must
nedes haue ben required in this behalfe. And where as afoze his tyme/
men of our nation/ dyd in maner dispayre/ that the frenche tong couldé
euer by any meanes be gotten / cause onely by an importune and long
continued exercise/ and that begon in yong and tender age/ our maister
hath here in done so moche that he þ wylle seke may fynde / and in a byse
tyme attayne to his vtterest desyre / and that nat onely concernyng the
parfyte knowlege & reddy vse of the tong/ but also bysefly and with smale
payne to gete theyr naturall pronounciatyon / whiche here afoze reason
hath ben supposed amongst vs in maner a thyng impossyble/ howe be
it here in to knowlege the very truthe / rather it is to be supposed that
suche of our nation as shall effectually be despyous of the frenche tong/
shall thynke his boke to lytell and in some thynges to moche abzeuiate/
than in any one poynt supfluously to moche / whan after the rules of
ryght pronounciatyon / and the pceptes grámaticall of this tong ones
knowen/ whiche two thynges in comparison to the hole volume be con-
tayne in a ryght smale space/ and than to practyse those rules for to en-
ioye the frute of them / shall fortune by theyr owne studeye to translate a-
ny sentence or matter out of our tong in to frenche / and shall purchaũce
loke for a worde amongeste the vocabulistes / whiche shulde serue for
theyr purpose/ and shall nat straghte and all reddy at hande fynd out the
thyng they loke for/ But to ease & satisfye the lernas in that behalfe/ our
maister

The Epistle of

maister / as you knowe / hath often shewed vs two generall rules / one / nat onely expedient for this purpose / but also byefly to haue a great plenty of substantiues and adiectiues in the frenche tong / for if any nowne of many syllables bled in our tong / approche any thyng towarde latine / comenly that worde is also frenche / for lyke as the frenche men bozowe theyr wordes immediatly of the latines / so do we bozowe a great nombre of our substantiues and adiectiues immediatly of the frenche men / whiche thyng for substantiues / he declareth some thyng at the length / in his thynde boke / in the .lv. lvi. and .lvii. chapters / before the table of substantiues / and for adiectiues in his sayd thynde boke in his annotations vpon the .vi. accident belongyng vnto adiectiues / whiche be set next before the table. And yet haue we farthermore / as he hath evidently proued vnto vs / a great nombre of other substantiues and adiectiues / whiche in dede be very frenche wordes / saue that our Englyshe tong hath some thyng alreedy theyr later terminations / but after theyr trewe orthographe and ryght pronúciatyon / be ones knowen / they be by any parson of our tong perceyued / and also lerned at ones / and that for euer after. So that if the lernar whan he begynneth to practise / shall fortune to mysse of any worde in the tables of substantiues or adiectiues / lette hym first haue recours vnto this general rule / afoze he iudge the tables insufficent. An other rule he hath also gyuen vs / that if any parte of speche fortune to be vnset out in his owne table / let the lernar seke out an other of lyke sens and sygnification / be it nowne / verbe / aduerbe / or any other parte of speche that is wantyng / and he shall by that meanes be competently satisfied / and so be able to make forth the sentence that he shall for y tyme fortune to haue in hande. Howe be it as you haue heres our maister dyuers tymes say / where as it is aboute a thousande yeres sens clerkes haue laboured to set forth the latin tong / and dayly yet in that kynde of study fynde matter ynough to exerceyse theyr witt / with all / where by continually / they whiche succede / in deuour the some thyng to adde vnto the diligence of suche as were before them / lyke as to our maisters selfe for his partie in that behalfe hath chauned / for after he had in comandement by our most redouted soueraygne / To instructe the duke of Richemontes grace / in the latin tong / he brought all the hole Analogie of the Romane speche / in to .ii. letters / that is to say / theyr fyue bowelles / and H / R / S / consonantes / whiche thyng was neuer / as yet / of no clerke that he wotteth of afoze his tyme obserued. Saying that Marcus Varro / whiche was in Cullypes tyme / in his thynde boke de Analogia / in very darke and byese wordes / sheweth that Aristotles Parmenius / & Dionisius Sidonius / supposed that suche a thyng was possible to be brought to passe of the Greke tong. It is th^e
no mat^r

Andzewe Baynton.

no manueyle / thoughe this volume of oure maysters / whiche leaueyth
nothyng vnattempted that ought to be desyred / for the gramaticall p-
fection of the frenche tonge / and therto dothe his dyligence / to declare
wozde for wozde / and phzais for phzais / thozowe bothe the tonges / do
nat in euery popyt vterly suffice and satisfy. Sens he hath ben the first
outher of our nation oz of the french mènes selfe / that hath so farre wa-
ded in all maner thinges necessary / to reduce that tong vnder rules cer-
tayne / And of howe great a difficulty it is amongst so many thouzande
wozdes / in bothe the tonges to foze see / that vterly none be wantyng /
seyng that he hath also ben the first / which in that kynde of exercise hath
begon to labour / luche as haue studied in the thze parfyte tonges / and
haue experyence howe theyz vocabulistes / whiche haue ben of so many
yeres / and by so sondry clerkes agatheryng / and yet to this day fully do
nat satisfy / can in this behalfe sufficiently decerne. But as touchyng
his rules / howe the frenche tong ought to be pronouised / and to knowe
the parfyte Analogie and congruite of the frenche tong / that is to saye
to decerne the changes / whiche happen in that langage by reason of di-
uerfite / in case / gender / nomber / mode / tens / and parfon / and to knowe
by some certayne examples / howe to couguate theyz verbes parfyte / and
what verbes be with them anomalies / and whiche be defectiues / By
cause his labours can in no wyte be profitable to no maner pson / except
he haue in all these thynges / at the leest some generall knoweledge / oz
euer he can be hable by his owne studye / to translate any sentence out of
our tong in to frenche. To do vnto all maner parsones of our natyon
desyrous to haue the frenche tong / yet a farther and more thankefull
pleasur / he hath brought all the pythe and effect of his two fyrst bokes
in to a very smale roume and quantite / whiche compendious tractyle
if it be but ones rede ouer / the lernar shall incontynety haue so euident
and clere a lyght in the frenche tong / that he shall for euer after be paste
all maner mystrust oz discourayge in this behalfe / and perceyue euy-
dently / that a lytell labour shall suffice hym to haue the full
frute and comodite of this his hole volume / of whiche
hese traictis / so moche expedient and com-

modious for this purpose / I
sende you here a
Copy.



Abzefc