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978-1-316-60177-8 - French Passages for Translation

R. L. Græme Ritchie and Claudine I. Simons

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FOR
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TRANSLATION**

**SELECTED BY
R. L. GRÆME RITCHIE, D.LITT., LL.D.
AND
CLAUDINE I. SIMONS, PH.D.**

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PREFACE

The passages are selected from a much larger number which we have used at various times, in the ordinary course of duty, as examiners and teachers.

The grade of difficulty is indicated by asterisks according to the Examinations for which they seem suitable and in which many of them have actually figured:

- * = 'Easy' = Higher School Certificate.
- ** = 'Moderately difficult' = University Pass Degree.
- *** = 'Difficult' = University Final Honours, Home and Indian Civil Service, Foreign Office, etc.
- **** = 'Very difficult' = *** above, although probably more useful as preparatory exercises done at leisure than as tests in any written examination.

'Difficulty', however, cannot be so precisely defined as the use of asterisks may suggest. It depends to some extent on the examiner's expectations and the degree of exactness required in a translation. It depends also on the candidate's alertness and maturity of mind as well as on his knowledge of French and English. The passages in the 'Philosophical and Reflective' section are in this sense more difficult than those termed 'Descriptive', which yet contain harder words. Many of the passages could in fact be used as quite a fair test at any one of the above-mentioned examinations or as a means of preparation for it.

'Easy' is also a relative term. We should not ourselves care to calculate the number of hours we have spent in endeavouring to translate passages classified here, quite correctly, as 'easy'.

Of our 160 passages, 78 (with the same numbering as here) are rendered and fully discussed in our *Essays in*

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Translation from French (Cambridge University Press), which, to that extent, will serve as a Key to the present volume. The 35 Additional Passages (126–160) are pieces which could not be fitted into the framework or the numbering of that book.

R. L. G. R.
C. I. S.

March, 1941