

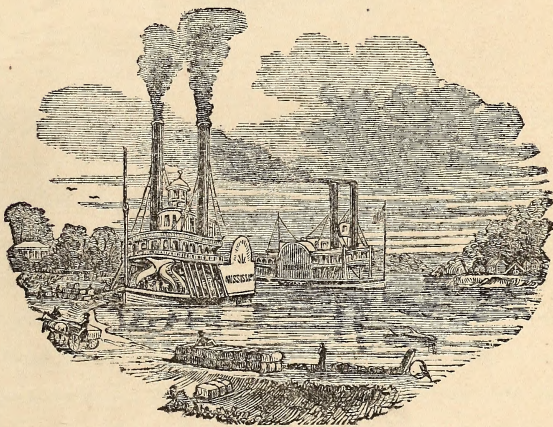
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STERLING'S SOUTHERN

FOURTH READER:

FOR THE USE OF

SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.



BY

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1866.

did you come from, and who are you?" "I came from Westminster Hall," replied the miller; "my name is Matthew Hale; I am Lord Chief-Justice of the King's Bench. I have observed the iniquity of your proceedings this day; therefore, come down from a seat which you are nowise worthy to hold. You are one of the corrupt parties in this iniquitous business. I will come up this moment and try the cause all over again."

15. Accordingly, Sir Matthew went up, with his miller's dress and hat on, began the trial from its very commencement, and searched every circumstance of truth and falsehood. He evinced the elder brother's title to the estate, from the contradictory evidence of the witnesses, and the false reasoning of the pleaders; unravelled all the sophistry to the very bottom, and gained a complete victory in favor of truth and justice.

ANONYMOUS.

Spell and define—

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| 1. Rambling. | 5. Contrived. | 10. Dexterous. |
| 2. Situation. | 6. Procured. | 11. Accumulated. |
| 3. Obligation. | 7. Ruined. | Deliberation. |
| 4. Stimulated. | 8. Privilege. | 15. Evinced. |

LESSON IV.

Spell and define—

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| 1. GLEAM'ING, shining.
SHEEN, brightness, splendor. | 3. SURF, waves breaking on the shore. |
| 2. BEA'CON, a light to guide.
PHA'ROS, an island near Alexandria in Egypt with a famous light-house on it. | 5. SHIV'ERED, broken into pieces.
DAP'PLING, variegating with spots.
PALE, to diminish in brightness. |

THE BIBLE THE LIGHT-HOUSE OF THE WORLD.

1. Life lies before you, young man, all gleaming and flashing in the light of your early hopes, like a summer sea. But bright though it seems in the silvery sheen of its far-

off beauty, it is a place where many a sunken rock and many a treacherous quicksand, have made shipwreck of immortal hopes. And calm though its polished surface may sleep, without a ripple or a shade, it shall yet be overhung to you by the darkness of the night and the wildness of the tempest.

2. And oh ! if, in these lonely and perilous scenes of your voyage, you were left without a landmark or a beacon, how sad and fearful were your lot. But, blessed be God ! you are not. Far up on the Rock of Ages, there streams a light from the Eternal Word ; the light that David saw, and rejoiced ; the light that Paul saw, and took courage ; the light that has guided the ten thousand times ten thousand, that have already reached the happy isles of the blest. There it stands, the Pharos of this dark and stormy scene, with a flame that was kindled in heaven, and that comes down to us, reflected from many a glorious image of prophet, apostle, and martyr.

3. Many a rash and daring spirit has sought to put out this light, and on the pinion of a reckless daring has furiously dashed itself against it, but has only fallen stunned and blackened in the surf below. Many a storm of hate and fury has dashed wildly against it, but when its fiercest shock has spent its rage, and the proud waves rolled all shivered and sullenly back, the beacon has still gleamed on high and clear above the raging waters.

4. Another storm is now dashing against it, and another cloud of mist is flung around it ; but when these also shall have expended their might, the rock and the beacon shall be unharmed still. Philosophy and human wisdom may neglect this light from heaven, and walk by the sparks of their own kindling ; but this light can never be put out, even though these proud wanderers should have it at God's hand to lie down at last in sorrow and gloom.

5. " We have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in

a dark place, until the day dawn and the day-star arise in your hearts." When this promised time shall have come, when the dappling dawn shall have broadened and brightened into the perfect day, then, and not till then, shall the light of this sure beacon pale before the brightness of that day, whose morning is heaven, and whose noontide is eternity. But until then, in spite of the false lights that flash upon our track, and gleam fitfully from billow to billow, our steady gaze and our earnest heed shall be to this sure word of prophecy, and the motto we shall ever unfurl to the winds shall be, "the Bible—the Bible the light-house of the world."

REV. T. V. MOORE, D.D.

Spell and define—

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| 1. Polished. | 3. Pinion. | 5. Prophecy. |
| Ripple. | Stunned. | Fitfully. |
| 2. Reflected. | 4. Expended. | Unfurl. |
| Prophet. | Unharmcd. | Noontide. |

LESSON V.

Spell and define—

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| 1. RE-MORSE', keen pain of conscience. | 4. O-VBR-WHIELMED', crushed, borne down. |
| DE-VOID', destitute. | 5. FER'VEHT-LY, earnestly, eagerly. |
| 2. RE-SOUND'ING, echoing. | 6. THRESH'OLD, entrance, beginning. |
| 3. EM'BLEM, representation. | |
| UN-A-VAII'ING, useless, ineffectual. | |

THE TWO ROADS.

1. It was New-Year's night. An aged man was standing at the window. He raised his mournful eyes toward the deep blue sky, where the stars were floating like white lilies on the surface of a clear, calm lake. Then he cast them on the earth, where few more hopeless beings than himself now moved toward their certain goal, the tomb.