

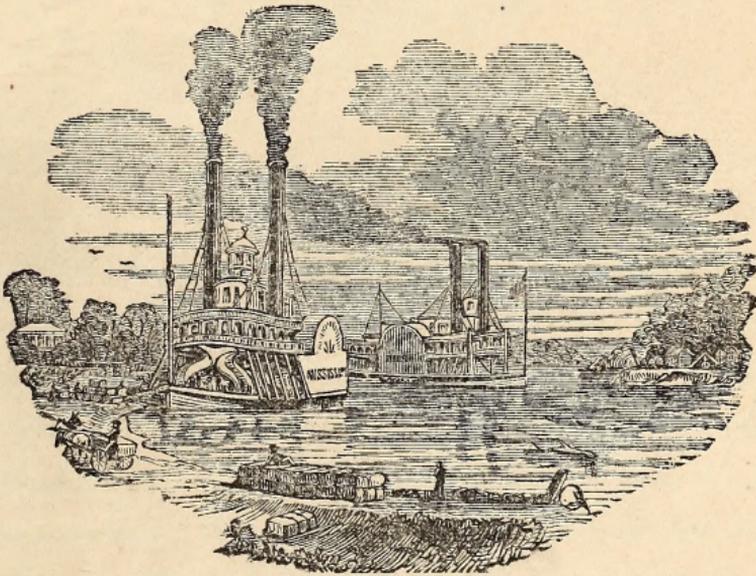
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STERLING'S SOUTHERN

FOURTH READER:

FOR THE USE OF

SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.



BY

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1866.

On the wall—like a soldier at his post,
 With his full armor girt about, he fell,
 And, faithful unto death, a crown of life
 110. Has from the Master's hand received.

MARY AYER MILLER.

Spell and define—

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|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 5. Nestling. | 26. Galleries. | 73. Contrite. |
| 9. Grandeur. | 28. Invectives. | 76. Mandate. |
| 11. Sire. | 37. Exploits. | 91. Stunning. |
| 18. Commission. | 39. Exhaustless. | 93. Ministrant. |

LESSON XXVIII.

Spell and define—

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| 1. EM'I-GRANTS, those who re-
move from one country to
another. | YARDS, long timbers on which
the sails of a ship are ex-
tended. |
| AUS'PI-CES, influences. | KETCH, a vessel with two
masts. |
| 3. HUR'RI-CANE, a violent storm
of wind. | 8. CALKED, stopped, filled up. |
| TROP'I-CAL, belonging to the
torrid zone. | 9. STEERED, directed, guided. |

VOYAGE OF SIR GEORGE SOMERS TO VIRGINIA.

1. Emigrants now offered themselves from every quarter and of every class. Nine vessels were equipped and furnished with every thing necessary to safety during the voyage, and to the comfort of the colonists on their arrival. They carried nearly five hundred settlers, besides the crews, and set forth under auspices so flattering as to attract to their enterprise the title of "the Virgine voyage." Lord Delaware remained yet in England, intending to follow them in the course of a few months. Sir George Somers was appointed admiral of Virginia, and Sir Thomas Gates lieutenant-general, and Christopher Newport commander

of the fleet; but by a most unwise arrangement, these three officers all embarked in the same ship, being unable to determine among themselves the important question of priority.

2. They sailed from Plymouth on the second day of June, and notwithstanding their express orders to proceed immediately westward, they went as far south as the twenty-sixth degree of latitude, and paid the penalty of their delay in disease and death among their crews. But a more imposing danger now assailed them.

3. On the 24th of July a tremendous hurricane came on, attended with all the horrors of a tropical storm. The heavens became gradually darker, until they assumed a pitchy hue; the lightnings were incessant, and the thunder seemed to burst immediately above the tops of the masts; the wind blew with so much fury, that sails were torn from the yards, masts were carried away, and the sea, rolling in huge waves over their decks, swept off every thing that could be displaced, and entering the holds, it reduced many of their cargoes to ruin. In this awful tempest, the ships of the fleet were separated, and the ketch, unable to weather the storm, foundered at sea, and all her crew were lost. Leaving the other ships for a season, we must now follow the *Sea Adventure*, in which the three principal commanders had embarked together.

4. This stout vessel was heavily laden with provisions, and carried out the commission for the new government in Virginia. Her safety was all-important, but it seemed impossible that she could survive. A leak admitted streams of water, and incessant pumping for three days and four nights could scarcely keep her afloat. During all this time the venerable Somers kept the deck. His gray locks streamed in the tempest, and were saturated with rain, yet his self-possession never deserted him. Even when his exhausted crew abandoned all hope, and staving the spirit-casks, endeavored to drown thought in intoxication, he

retained his calmness, and was the first to discover land. The ship struck the ground about half a mile from the shore, and was thrown in such a position between two rocks, that all on board were easily saved.

5. The island on which they were wrecked was one of the well-known Bermuda group, lying in the Atlantic, about six hundred miles from the American coast. They have never been remarkable for their fertility; but their climate is charming. When approached from the seaboard they present a most picturesque appearance; and they have been invested with peculiar interest by the notice of an English poet, who once passed a season of his life within their rocky barrier.

6. The isle they first reached was uninhabited. It had previously been visited by the Spaniards, and in 1591 an English ship had been cast away upon its coast, but now none of the human species were left. It was, moreover, supposed to be enchanted. Strange tales of demons and monsters of fantastic form had been received, and the English sailors were alive to all the superstitions of their class. But they had no reason to complain of inhospitable treatment in this fairy land. The air was pure, the heavens were serene, the waters abounded with excellent fish, the beach was covered with turtles, birds of many kinds enlivened the forests, and the whole island swarmed with hogs, which were so numerous that very little labor sufficed to procure plenty.

7. Amid this profusion they remained nine months. The loveliness of nature had not subdued human passions. Somers was envied, and the commanders lived apart; yet the influence of the good admiral was exerted to have daily worship, and on Sunday divine service was performed, and two sermons were preached by Mr. Bucke, their chaplain. In the brief space of this sojourn one marriage was celebrated, two children were born and baptized, five persons died, of whom one was murdered; and when they left the

island the murderer escaped, and, with another culprit, remained to be afterward instrumental in a singular discovery

8. Many were so well pleased with the climate and resources of this island, that they would willingly have made it their abode. But the admiral longed for Virginia. Two vessels were constructed from the cedar of the isle—the lower seams were calked with the old cables and other cordage saved from the wreck—the upper seams were filled with a mixture of lime and turtles' oil, which soon became hard as a stone. Sir George Somers had but one single piece of iron in his bark—a bolt in her keel—yet these vessels proved strong and sea-worthy. They were supplied with such provisions as they had saved from the Adventure, and with a large stock of pork from the wild hogs of the island, cured with salt obtained by crystallizing the sea water on the rocks around them.

9. Thus prepared, they set sail on the 10th of May, and steered directly for Virginia. Their vessels bore the appropriate names of Patience and Deliverance; yet in the brief voyage unexpected dangers severely tried the one, and threatened the existence of the other. At length, on the 4th, they made Point Comfort, and sailed up the river to the long-sought settlement.

R. R. HOWISON.

Spell and define—

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| 1. Equipped. | 5. Picturesque. | 7. Culprit. |
| 2. Enterprise. | 6. Enchanted. | 8. Resources. |
| 3. Embarked. | Fantastic. | Crystallizing. |
| 4. Assailed. | 7. Profusion. | 9. Appropriate. |