

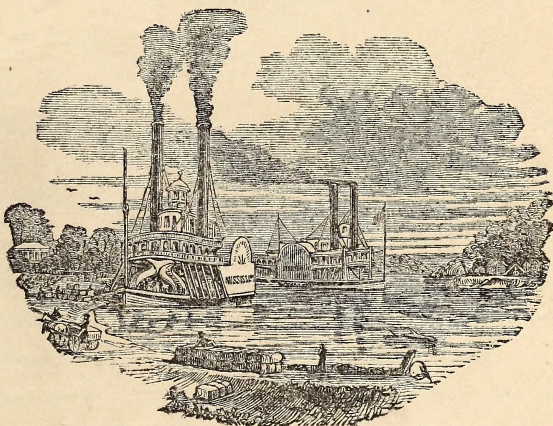
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STERLING'S SOUTHERN

FOURTH READER:

FOR THE USE OF

SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.



BY

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New-York:

OWENS AND AGAR, 110 WILLIAM ST.

GREENSBORO, N. C.:

R. STERLING & SON.

1866.

Hark ! was it the night wind that rustled the leaves ?
 Was't the moonlight so wondrously flashing ?
 It looked like a rifle—" Ha !—Mary, good by !"
 And the life-blood is ebbing and plashing.

6. All quiet along the Potomac to-night,
 No sound save the rush of the river ;
 While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead—
 The picket's off duty for ever !

ANONYMOUS.

Spell and define—

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Thicket. | 3. Sentry. | 5. Dreary. |
| 2. Gleaming. | 4. Welling. | Rustled. |
| Tremulous. | Unspoken. | Ebbing. |

LESSON XV.

Spell and define—

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|---|---|
| ARCH'I-TECTS, builders, formers, makers. | 5. CON'DOR, a large bird. |
| DES'TI-NIES, ultimate fate, appointed condition. | EM-PYR'EAL, relating to the highest and purest region of the heavens. |
| ME-DI-OC'R-I-TY, a middle state or degree of talents. | 6. CA-REER'ING, moving rapidly. |
| ME'DI-O-CRE, a man of moderate talents. | PROW'ESS, bravery, boldness. |
| FI'AT, decree. | A-CHIEVE'MENTS, something accomplished by exertion. |

NO EXCELLENCE WITHOUT LABOR.

1. The education, moral and intellectual, of every individual, must be chiefly his own work. Rely upon it, that the ancients were right ; both in morals and intellect, we give their final shape to our characters, and thus become, emphatically, the architects of our own fortune. How else could it happen that young men who have had precisely the same opportunities, should be continually presenting us

with such different results, and rushing to such opposite destinies ?

2. Difference of talent will not solve it, because that difference is very often in favor of the disappointed candidate. You will see issuing from the walls of the same college, nay, sometimes from the bosom of the same family, two young men, of whom one will be admitted to be a genius of high order, the other scarcely above the point of mediocrity; yet you will see the genius sinking and perishing in poverty, obscurity, and wretchedness; while, on the other hand, you will observe the mediocre plodding his slow but sure way up the hill of life, gaining steadfast footing at every step, and mounting, at length, to eminence and distinction, an ornament to his family, a blessing to his country.

3. Now, whose work is this? Manifestly their own. They are the architects of their respective fortunes. The best seminary of learning that can open its portals to you can do no more than afford you the opportunity of instruction: but it must depend, at last, on yourselves, whether you will be instructed or not, or to what point you will push your instruction.

4. And of this be assured, I speak from observation a certain truth: there is no excellence without great labor. It is the fiat of fate, from which no power of genius can absolve you.

5. Genius, unexerted, is like the poor moth that flutters around a candle, till it scorches itself to death. If genius be desirable at all, it is only of that great and magnanimous kind, which, like the condor of South-America, pitches from the summit of Chimborazo, above the clouds, and sustains itself, at pleasure, in that empyreal region, with an energy rather invigorated than weakened by the effort.

6. It is this capacity for high and long-continued exertion, this vigorous power of profound and searching investigation, this careering and wide-spreading comprehension of mind, and these long reaches of thought, that

“Pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon,
Or dive into the bottom of the deep,
And drag up drownèd honor by the locks;”

this is the prowess, and these the hardy achievements,
which are to enroll your names among the great men of
the earth.

WIRT.

Spell and define—

1. Individual.	2. Difference.	4. Absolve.
Characters.	Candidate.	5. Magnanimous.
Precisely.	Obscurity.	Invigorated.
Opportunities.	Distinction.	6. Capacity.
Intellectual.	3. Manifestly.	Investigation.
Emphatically.	Respective.	Vigorous.
Results.	Instruction.	Comprehension.

LESSON XVI.

Spell and define—

FRAIL, weak, easily destroyed.	3. PRINTS, tracks.
BRIEF, short.	STRAND, shore of the sea.
BE-WAIL', mourn for.	VES'TIGE, marks or remains.

MY LIFE IS LIKE THE SUMMER ROSE.

1. My life is like the summer rose
That opens to the morning sky,
But, ere the shades of evening close,
Is scattered on the ground—to die!
Yet on that rose's humble bed
The sweetest dews of night are shed,
As if she wept the waste to see—
But none shall weep a tear for me.
2. My life is like the autumn leaf
That trembles in the moon's pale ray;