

Excerpts from *The Verbal Primer*, Richmond, VA, 1865.

LESSON 44. – UNCLE TOM.



Here is uncle Tom sawing wood. Let us go up and speak to him. Good morning, uncle Tom; how do you do to-day? Very well, Miss; how are you this morning? Pretty well, uncle Tom; and here you are still hard at work. Oh! yes, Miss; that's all poor Tom is fit for. But wouldn't you rather be free, uncle Tom, so that you could work for yourself? Why, no, Miss; don't you know master gives me every thing I want, and takes care of me when I am sick? What do I want to be free for? (pg. 27).

LESSON 47. – COTTON.

Mother, are all stockings made of wool? Oh! no, Sallie; some are made of cotton, and some are made of silk, and some are made partly of cotton and partly of wool. Well, mother, what kind of animal does cotton grow on? Why, Sallie, don't you know better than that? Cotton grows in the ground. In the States on the south of us, a great deal of cotton is raised, and sent to the different countries of the world. There is no other country in the world, where it grows as well as it does here. There is not so much raised now as there was before the war (pg. 28).

LESSON 62. – THE RAILROAD.



Take care there, mas' John; that horse will throw you if you don't mind. Don't you see the train coming up the road? Woe, Dobbin; woe, sir. What are you afraid of? That engine can't hurt you, sir. Pull the reins tight, mas' John; I wouldn't have Dobbin to throw you off for the world. Never mind, uncle Tom; I think I can manage him. I have passed this place on him many a time before. He always prances about when he hears the whistle blow; but he never has thrown me off yet. Well, that's nothing, mas' John; you must be careful, or he will throw you off some day yet. These railroad cars are apt to scare a horse. Or a man either, uncle Tom. The first time I ever saw a train coming towards me, and heard the whistle blow, I was frightened nearly to death. But I have got used to it now, and Dobbin must get used to it, too. The railroad is a wonderful thing, mas' John; I never could see how the engine could haul such heavy loads as it does. That is very true, uncle Tom: since we have got used to it now, it would be very hard to get along without the railroad.

Lander, Rev. S. *The Verbal Primer*. Sterling, Campbell & Albright, 1865.