

THE VERBAL PRIMER

BY

REV. S. LANDER, A.M.

GREENSBORO, N.C.

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By S. Lander, A. M.

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STERLING, CAMPBELL & ALBRIGHT, *Publishers*
Greensboro, N.C.

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BY REV. S. LANDER,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confede-
rate States, for the District of Cape Fear, North Carolina

TO THE TEACHER.

This little work is presented to the public not without much solicitude, inasmuch as I know that its plan is entirely novel in most sections of our country, and people are apt to look with suspicion on any new candidate for their favor. But I am perfectly convinced by my own experience in teaching that the verbal system herein presented is much more natural, more interesting to the child, and therefore more successful, than the alphabetic system in common use. And hence I ask with confidence that you will give the plan a thorough examination and a fair trial at your earliest convenience.

Two points to be borne in mind in preparing a text book for children are first, that the lessons be within their comprehension, and secondly, that, in subject and manner of treatment, they be interesting as well as instructive. I have steadily kept these two points in view in writing this little book. How I have succeeded, you must decide.

Two great evils in our systems of education are forcing little children to study against their will, and sending them to school at too tender an age. In early childhood, they should be impressed with the fact that attendance at school is a great privilege and not a duty at all: and, as soon as their interest in their studies begins to abate, they should be instantly removed from school, not to gratify so much as to punish them.

If, with these principles in view, you use this Primer strictly according to its plan, I firmly believe that you will be favorably struck with the unusual progress your pupil will make in the first and most tiresome stages of his educational course.

THE PLAN OF THE WORK

May be given in few words, as follows: -- Take a child of at least six years of age who does not know a single letter of the alphabet. Secure his attention, and read to him distinctly and well the first lesson of the book, letting him look at the picture while you are reading the lesson. Then propose to him that he shall learn to read the same lesson. If he expresses his desire to try it, which he will be almost sure to do, point out and pronounce for him each word in the first sentence, letting him repeat each word after you, imitating precisely your pronunciation and inflections. -- Then call his attention to some single word, as "book," for instance, and ask him to find the same word elsewhere on the page. If it is there, he will be almost sure to find it. After going through the most important words of the first sentence in this way, read this sentence with him again as before, and then read the second sentence in the same way. If you can keep up his attention long enough, go on through the whole lesson in this way, never saying a word to him about his letters. If his interest flags, however, stop the exercise, as soon as you perceive that his mind is wandering: close the book, take it from him, and send him out to play. If, after reading the lesson to him at first, he is unwilling to attempt to learn it, there let the matter end. Above all things, be patient. If the next day he can not read the first lesson alone, read it with him again, as the first, and then go on with the second. Do not keep him on one lesson until he can read it perfectly, and yet do not let him skim over a great many lessons with but little knowledge of any. Pursue a medium course.

I have given no marks of inflection, &c. A good reader does not need them, and a bad reader will not use them, and the child will read like his teacher after all.

Hoping that this little volume may remove some of the obstacles from the paths of our children in their first searchings after knowledge, it is respectfully submitted to the teachers and parents of the Confederacy.

S. LANDER

LINCOLNTON, N.C., Feb. 1, 1865.

THE VERBAL PRIMER

LESSON 1. – THE NEW BOOK.

Look, I have a nice new book. Papa has just given it to me. I am six years old to-day. And he says I may learn to read. Oh! I am so glad! I will try my best, and learn as fast as I can. And, when I learn to read all this book, papa will get me a new one. I hope to learn more and more, as I get older; and I know I will try all I can, and learn to read my nice new book.

LESSON 2. – SUNRISE.

O, you lazy boy, get out of your bed: the sun is now about to rise. See how bright he shines upon the wall! Come to the window, and look. You can see him climb up behind the hill, and mount into the sky. Do you see him? Rub you sleepy eyes, and look. You must learn to get up early. Don't you know, poor Richard says:

“Early to bed, and early to rise,

Will make you both healthy, and wealthy, and wise?”

LESSON 3. – THE OX.

Here comes our old ox. He has been hard at work all day and he is very tired. How slowly he walks! He can hardly drag one foot after the other. Poor old ox! I am sorry you have to work so hard.

But God made the ox to work for us. And he must go when his master gives the word. A bad ox will hook, or run away: but a good ox is always gentle and kind. A good ox will not hurt a little child. I love our good old ox.



LESSON 4. – THE KITE.

John and Tom have a nice new kite. Their papa made it for them. They are going out to fly it in the field. It is as tall as John. If the wind is fair, it will fly very high. John must mind, and not let go the string; for, if he does, away will go the kite. This kite is made of paper, and it is very light. Tom and John have a good, kind papa, to make a kit for them. They must be good boys, and mind what he tells them to do.

LESSON 5. – THE CAMP.

And here we are at the camp. Here is a soldier with his gun by his side. He is reading a book. I hope it is his Bible. See the nice cloth tents. The men all sleep in them. Can they keep out the rain? I am afraid they sometimes leak. Soldiers lead a hard life. We ought to do all we can for them, for they do a great deal for us. Our soldiers are very brave. They have fought many hard battles to save us and our country.



LESSON 6. – ANN AND HER PET CAT.

Ann has her pet cat in her arms. She calls it Kate. Take care, Ann; if you hurt Kate, she will scratch you, and make you cry. Did you give Kate her dinner? What did you give her? Bread and milk. Well, if you gave her *enough* bread and milk, that will do very well. Did you give her enough? O, yes. She ate as much as she could. Well now, let her go and play with her kittens.

LESSON 7. – THE DOG.

Here is a fine dog. See how fast he runs! Do you see his long tail? He is running after a rabbit. I hope he will catch it, and bring it home. If he does, we will cook it, and eat it. A dog has four legs, and he can run very fast. Dogs love to hunt rabbits and birds. Some bad dogs kill sheep and lambs. And some dogs will bite men and boys. I love a good dog, but I do not love a bad one.



LESSON 8. – THE CAT AND HER KITTENS.

How many kittens has this cat? Let me count. One, two, three: she has three kittens. What are their names? Mollie, Nannie, and Tom. – What is the old cat's name? Why, she is named Nannie, too. One of the kittens is named after her. What are the kittens doing? They are playing and romping about with their mother. Who is their mother? Why, don't you know? The old cat is their mother. Nannie, you must teach your kittens to catch rats and mice.

LESSON 9. – THE RAT.

Did you ever see a rat? Yes, I saw one this morning, when I went with aunt Ann into the pantry. Why did you not catch it? Oh! I could not catch it: it ran away as fast as it could. How many legs has a rat? It has four legs, and a long tail, and two bright little eyes. Do you love rats? No, I do not love them. Why not? Because they eat papa's corn and wheat and rye. I wish they would all go away.



LESSON 10. – THE GUN.

Mamma, is this papa's gun? Yes, my dear; it is the gun he had, while he was in the army. What made papa go to the army? He went to fight for his country. You are too young to know all about it. When you get older, I will let you read all about the war. Your father suffered a great deal in the army, He had to stand up and be shot at many a time. But God took care of him, and did not let him get killed.

LESSON 11. – THE BOY ON THE OX

Here goes Tom Jones on his father's ox. Tom, you are too small to ride on an ox. Take care, or you may fall off. The ox is coming home from the field. He has been at work all day. Now, Tom, you must see that he is well fed. If you do not feed him, he can not work for you any more. It is very cruel to work an ox, and not feed him well; and good boys must not be cruel.

LESSON 12. – THE BABY.

Look at this sweet little baby. It is sitting in its mother's lap. Its mother has a piece of cake for it to eat. Has it any teeth? Oh! no. It is only nine months old. But it can gnaw soft cake with its little gums. It will soon have some teeth, and then it can eat bread and meat. – Babies love sweet things, and so do little girls and boys. Do you? Is not this a sweet little baby? See how it holds out its sweet little arms!

LESSON 13. – THE DOVE.

Do you see that dove sitting on the tree? How clean and neat it looks! The dove is the gentlest and kindest of birds. I wish I could be as sweet and kind as the dove seems to be. Listen! Do you hear it? It is cooing for its mate. Most men love the dove. Very few men will kill one. Doves seem to know that men will not hurt them: and that is why they are so gentle. They will let us go very near them.



LESSON 14. – THE MOON AND THE STARS.

Who made the moon and the stars to shine so bright at night? God made all things, my child. He made the sun to shine by day, and the moon and the stars to give us light at night. How bright and beautiful they are! And did God make us too, mamma? Yes, my dear; He made us, and He gives us our food, and our clothes, and every good thing we have. We must be good, and try to please God, who is so good and kind to us.

LESSON 15. – THE BOY AND THE PIG.

Here is little Willie, feeding his pig. What do pigs eat? They eat corn, and bran, and slop, and almost any thing. – Pigs are not as nice about what they eat as good little boys are. Willie, you must have fed your pig very well, for I see he is as fat as he can be. What is his name? His name is Blaze. Now, Blaze, you must not go into the garden and root. If you do, I will set Watch on you, and make him drive you out.

LESSON 16. – WATCH.

John, have you give Watch his supper? Yes, sir. What did you give him? I gave him some bread, and some meat, and some bones. I hope you have him enough: did you? Yes, sir; I think so. Now, Watch you must take care of us to-night: and, if any body comes to steal any thing, you must bite him, and drive him away, or else keep him fast till papa comes out of the house. He will tie him, and have him whipped.

LESSON 17. – THE LITTLE WAGON.

Come, Jane, and let us ride little Ida in her wagon. Well, Fannie, put her in. And now we go. Take care, and do not go too fast. If you do, Ida may fall out, and hurt herself; and then we would be so sorry. Who made this nice little wagon for Ida? Papa got uncle Jim to make it. How many wheels has it? It has two wheels on this side, and two more on the other side. That makes four wheels in all Two and Two are four.



LESSON 18. – THE HEN AND HER CHICKENS.

Chick! chick! chick! Come up and get your supper. I have some nice mush for you. So, come and get it. The old hen scratches in the ground, and gets worms for the little chickens to eat. And when they get enough, she sits down, and they all run in under her wings. There they keep nice and warm. And, if it rains, she keeps them dry. The hen has two legs and two wings. But she can not fly very far.

LESSON 19. – THE BIRD IN THE CAGE.

Jane has a mocking bird in a cage. Jane, will you let us come and see your bird? Oh! yes; you may look at it as much as you please. Can you make it sing whenever you please? No. Sometimes it sings a great deal, and sometimes it will not sing at all. Its cage is too small: I am trying to get a larger one made for it. It can sing like any bird it hears. Or it can mew like a cat, or whine like a dog.



LESSON 20. – THE GOOD BOY.

John Darby is a good little boy. He always does what his father and mother tell him. He is very good and kind to his little brothers and sisters. He never goes to bed at night, nor gets up in the morning, without saying his prayers. When he has any thing good to eat, and his little brother wants any of it, he always gives him some. He never tells a lie, or takes any thing that does not belong to him. If he keeps on so, he will be a great and good man some day.

LESSON 21. – THE CAT.

The cat has come to get her milk. Here it is in the cup. Come, Kitty, drink your milk, we will not trouble you. Look at Kitty's whiskers. Her tail is so long that it drags on the floor. See how she puts out her tongue when she drinks! Kitty, have you caught any mice to-day? She mews as if she would say, yes. You must catch all the mice you can. I love a good cat; but I do not like a lazy cat, that does not catch any mice or rats.



LESSON 22. – JOHNNY AND FIDO.

Here, Fido, here! Here, Fido, here! Listen at Johnny Davis calling his do Fido. And look at Fido as he runs and jumps up at Johnny. Will Fido bite Johnny? Oh! no; Johnny and Fido are good friends. Johnny gives Fido his meat and break; and Fido loves Johnny so much that he will not eat his dinner for any body but his young master. You see how glad Johnny seems to be! He has taken off his hat; and you can almost hear him laugh with joy.

LESSON 23. – THE LARK.

Here are some very pretty little verses about the lark, that I wish you to get by heart. –
Read them, and see if they are not pretty.

1. The lark is up to meet the sun,
 The bee is on the wing;
 The ant her labor has begun,
 The woods with music sing.

2. Shall birds, and bees, and ants be wise,
 While I my moments waste?
 O, let me with the morning rise,
 And to my duty haste.

LESSON 24. – TOM JONES AGAIN.

Here is Tom Jones again. And what is he at now? At some mischief, I'll be bound. Yes, just so. He is trying to put his cat into this close box. But the cat is too smart for him; and it is jumping out. I do hope it will get away. Tom, how can you be so cruel? You ought to be ashamed of yourself. How would you like to be fastened up in a tight box that way? You are as full of badness as you can be. I am afraid you will come to some bad end, if you keep on so.

LESSON 25. – THE COW AND HER CALF.

Come, Sarah, bring some bran for old Brindle. Give her some salt too. See that she has enough; for, if we do not feed her well, she will not give us much milk. Let the calf have a little milk, while Brindle is eating her bran. Then bring your pail, and milk her; and be sure you strip her clean. Now, Brindle, stand still; and do not kick over the pail, while Sarah is milking you. And when she gets done, you may go, and lie down, and chew your cud as long as you please.



LESSON 26. – THE HOUSE.

What is this house made of? It looks like it is made of logs, but I can not tell from the picture. How many chimneys has it? It has two chimneys, one at each end. Who lives in it? I think Mr. Jones lives in it. I know he used to live there: but he may have moved away by this time. Has Mr. Jones any children? Yes; he has two sons and three daughters. Don't you remember when we saw Tom Jones riding on his father's ox in Lesson 11?

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LESSON 27. – SNAP.

So, Snap, you have caught an other rat? Where did you find him? I say, where did you find him, Snap? Why don't you answer me, when I speak to you? My dear, you forget yourself. Don't you know that poor Snap can not speak? God has made us so that we can speak; but dogs and all other brutes can not speak at all. We ought to be very thankful to God, for making us so much better than the brutes; and we ought to love to do His holy will.



LESSON 28. – ANNIE'S BED.

How nice and tidy Annie keeps her bed! You see that every thing is in its place. – Annie did you make up your bed by yourself? Oh! yes, sir; mamma does not let any one help me. She says that I can do it myself; and, if I get used to working for myself, I can always get along better: but, if I have some body to help me do every thing now, I will have to have help in every thing I do after I grow up. And mamma knows better than I do.

LESSON 29. – GOING TO SCHOOL.

Willie, do you go to school? Yes, Mattie; I started to go last month. What do you study, Willie? Oh! I am learning to read in the Verbal Primer. Do you know how to spell yet? Oh! no; I am not old enough to learn to *spell* yet. Papa says, when I learn to read all the lessons in this Primer, he will teach me my letters, and then I can soon learn to spell as well as any body. That's right, Willie; learn all you can; and your papa and your teacher will both love you. Is your school in that pretty house just over the bridge? it is such a nice place; I am sure you must love to be there. If you play by the creek, or on the bridge, you must take care not t fall in. The water is deep, and you might be drowned.

LESSON 30. – LILY BROWN.

Come Lily, and say your lesson. Who made you? God. Where is God? Every where. What else did He make? He made all things. Can you see God? Oh! no: we can not see Him; but He can see us and He knows every thing we do or say. Now, Lily, remember all these things; and take care not to do any thing wrong: and then God will love you, and take care of you, and save you from all harm. Well, mamma, I will try to be a good girl, and do whatever you and papa tell me.



LESSON 31. – DEATH.

When God made our first parents, Adam and Eve, He put them in the garden of Eden. This was a beautiful place, full of nice fruit trees and sweet flowers. He told them that they might eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden but one: but, if they would eat the fruit of that tree, they should both die. the devil came to them, and told them that that tree was the best tree in the whole garden; and they would not die if they did eat of it. And so they believed him, and ate of it; and they and all their children died. We too must die.

LESSON 32. – THE RIDE.

Who are those persons riding down the road? They are cousin Ella and her brother Willie. Uncle William told them, that if they would study hard, and get their lessons well, they might take a ride this evening. And now they have just finished saying their lessons, and they are going to take their ride. Cousin Ella is on old Gray; and Willie is riding Tom. Which is the oldest, Willie or Ella? Willie is two years older than Ella. Ella is fourteen years old, and Willie is sixteen.



LESSON 33. – GRANDPA.

Good morning, grandpa; we have come over to sit with you awhile. I am glad to see you, children; have seats with me outside the door: it is more pleasant here than in the house. I got lonesome in the house, and I came out to see my dog and cat: they are a great deal of company to me in my old days. How old are you, grandpa? I will be seventy years old next month, my child. God has been very kind and good to me, in sparing my life so long. Thanks be to His name!

LESSON 34. – PRAYER.

Mamma, if I sin only just once, will God put me into the lake of fire after I die, like you said the other day? I think I sinned this morning: for I got very angry with sister Mattie because she took my doll away from me. Yes, my dear; no doubt you sinned. But God is merciful; and, if you are sorry for your sin, and pray to Him, He will forgive your sins for Jesus' sake. But you must make up your mind not to sin any more; if you do not, God will not listen to your prayer, nor answer it.



LESSON 35. – THE COW.

Mother, I have just been out to see aunt Milly mild the cow. Well, my dear, come here, and let me tell you some thing about the cow. The nice white mild that you saw is good to drink by itself, and it is very good to put into coffee and tea. It is also useful in various ways in cooking. By churning milk, we can make butter, which is so good to eat with bread you know, And by a different plan still, milk is made into cheese, which is very good to eat. So, you see, the cow is very useful to us.

LESSON 36. – THE OX.

Here is a big fat ox. How lazy he seems to be! What is he good for, mamma? He is soon to be killed for beef, my dear. Is that all he is fit for mamma? No, no, my dear; his hide is made into leather for shoes; his tallow is used for making candles; his horns are made into combs, and into handles for knives and forks; and even his hair is used for filling cushions. So you see he is a very useful animal. Why, mamma, I didn't know he was so useful as all that.

LESSON 37. – SIN.

Lily, my dear, do you remember all you learned in Lesson 30? Yes, mamma; I think I do. Well, I will teach you some thing more to-day. God has given us a book , which we call the Bible; and in it He tells us all that we must do, and all that we must not do. If we do any thing He tells us not to do, that is a sin; and, if we will not do any thing He tells us to do, that is a sin, too. He tells us in His Holy Boo, that, if we sin, He will put us after we die into a lake burning with fire and brimstone.

LESSON 38. – THE GREYHOUND.

Here is a fine picture of a greyhound. You see how much slimmer he is than a common dog. What is he good for, papa? Some kinds of greyhounds are used for catching rabbits, and some kinds for killing wolves, and some small kinds are kept by ladies for lap-dogs. Well, papa, what are lap-dogs? Some people keep little dogs as pets, and nurse them in their laps; and then the dogs are called lap-dogs. Well, well; they must be strange ladies. I know I will never have a dog on my lap.



LESSON 39. – FLOWERS.

Who does not love the pretty flowers? Come, Mollie, and tell me which flower you love most of all? Well, mamma, I really can not tell. I love the rose, the pink, the tulip, the lily, the violet, and the Johnny-jump-up. I don't know which I love the most. Don't you think they are all pretty, mamma? Yes, my dear; they are all beautiful. All good people seem to love flowers; and I am very glad to see you love them so much. I hope you will always remember that they are the gift of our Heavenly Father.

LESSON 40. – THE GOOD CHILDREN.

How pleasant is for little children to live together in peace! Some little boys are always quarreling with their little sisters and brothers; and there is no pleasure in being with such boys as that. But Charlie Jones and his sister Annie always agree. They never quarrel about their playthings; but they always try to make each other happy. This makes every body love Charlie and Annie. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are very proud of their children.

LESSON 41. – THE DOLL.

Mattie, come here, and look at my pretty doll. Who made it for you, Clara? Aunt Sallie made it for me, and gave it to me for a birthday present. How good Aunt Sallie is! And isn't it a pretty doll? Yes, Mattie, it is very pretty; and its dress is so fine, and fist so nicely. When was your birthday, Clara? And how old are you? I was six years old on the day before yesterday. Well, you are a good deal older than I am. I was five years old last month.

LESSON 42. – ELLA AND HER KITTEN.

Ella, what is your little kitten's name? I have not named it yet: I can't think of a name pretty enough for it. How long have you had it? I got it from aunt Maggie about three weeks ago. How old is it? It is just two months old to-day. Well, Ella, it is quite young; and you must take good care of it, and feed it well every day: if you attend well to it, it will soon grow up, and learn to catch rats and mice; but, if you forget to feed it, it will get poor and weak, and the poor thing may die.



LESSON 43. – KIN.

Mother, please tell me about my kin folks. Well, my child; listen to me, and I will tell you some thing about them. Your grandfather is your father's or mother's father. Your grandmother is your father's or your mother's mother. Your uncle is your father's or your mother's brother. Your aunt is your father's or your mother's sister. Your cousin is your uncle's or your aunt's child. Your nephew is your brother's or your sister's son. Your niece is your brother's or your sister's daughter. When you get older, I will tell you some thing more about them.

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?



LESSON 45. – SILK.

Mother, you told me the other day that some stockings are made of silk. Is that what your fine silk dress is made of? Yes, my dear. Well, mother, what is silk? Silk, my dear, is a very fine kind of thread spun by an ugly worm called the silk-worm. This worm, ugly as it is, is changed into a beautiful butterfly. And, just before it changes into a butterfly, it spins its silk, and wraps it round and round into a kind of case; and then it crawls into the case, and closes up the end, and lies there as if it was dead. After it comes out, people gather up the empty cases, and unwrap the silk.

LESSON 46. – THE HAWK.

Oh! me. Yonder is that old hawk again. Run and tell papa, and ask him to bring his gun, and shoot the hawk before it comes and catches one of our chickens. Papa, please run here. Don't you see that old hawk? Please shoot it, papa. If you don't shoot it, it will pounce down on one of the chickens, and carry it off, and kill it. I do wish the hawk would stay away, and not come troubling our chickens so. I wish I could shoot it.

LESSON 47. – COTTON.

Mother, are all stockings made of wool? Oh! no, Sallie; some are made 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.

LESSON 48. – JAMES HILL AND HIS FATHER.

Come here, James, and tell me where you have been. Mamma sent me up to grandpa's this morning, and I have been there ever since. What did you do there? I played a while with my little cousins; and then grandpa called us all in, and told us some pretty stories from the Bible. I hope you will remember every thing your grandpa told you. He is a good old man, and he loves little children very much, and he has a great many pretty stories to tell his grand children.



LESSON 49. – TOM JONES AGAIN.

What are you doing there, Tom? You are one of the worst boys I ever saw. The poor cat got away from you that day, and you did not put it into the tight box; but now you have caught it, and tied a string round its neck, as if you are going to hang it. How can you be so cruel? If you keep on so, Tom, I am afraid you will come to some bad end. For father says that a bad boy will almost always make a bad man: and bad men are always getting themselves into trouble.

LESSON 50. – THE BARN-YARD.

Here we have a picture of the barn-yard, with George on the left and Annie on the right, both sitting down to rest. George has a hoe, a gun, and a saw: Annie is just sitting with her arms folded, and with nothing in her lap. Besides George and Annie, I can see a hen, a cow, a horse, a hog, and a dog. The hen, the cow, the hog, and the dog are all looking toward the left; but the horse is looking toward the right. George and Annie must not stay out too long: they may get sick.



LESSON 51. – FRUIT.

Alfred, are you fond of fruit? Oh! yes, sir; I am very fond of good fruit. What kind of fruit do you like most? It is very hard to tell, sir; there are so many nice kinds that I can not say which is the best. Have you any good peach trees in your father's orchard? Oh! yes, sir; and we have some very nice pear trees. Father sent all the way to West Green for them. Did he get any other kinds there? Yes, sir; he got some choice apples, some very fine plums, and some very large kinds of cherries.

LESSON 52. – THE FOX.

I wonder what this fox is hunting for. He is looking down the hill, as if he saw some body coming after him. He is very cunning, and he can run very fast; and, if a dog wants to catch him, he must keep a sharp lookout, and run as fast as he can, besides. The fox is known all over the world as one of the most cunning for all animals. Did you every hear any body say, “As cunning as a fox?” Take care, old fox; some hound may catch you yet.



LESSON 53. – WOOL.

Sallie, come here, my dear; I have finished a nice warm pair of stockings for you. Feel them, and see if you can tell me what they are made of. Oh! mother, you are so good and kind! And they are so nice and warm. Is it wool that they are made of? Yes, dear; and now can you tell me what wool is? Isn't it sheep's hair, mother? It grows on sheep, Sallie, it is true; and it answers them in the place of hair: and yet it is very different from the hair of other animals. It is cut off from the sheep once or twice a year, and then made into warm clothes for us.

LESSON 54. – TOM'S TOOL-BOX.

Papa, is this Tom Jones? Or what Tom is it? No, Johnny, it is not Tom Jones. Tom Jones is too wild and bad to care any thing about a tool-box. It is Tom Smith; and he is a very good little boy. He has a turn for working in wood, and his father has bought him a nice tool-box to encourage him. He has plenty of tools in it to do any easy kind of work. If he keeps on so, when he grows up, he will be a very useful man.



LESSON 55. – GRAIN.

James, come and look at this beautiful field. What is growing in it, father? It is wheat, my son, See how nicely it waves backward and forward in the wind. Father, I heard Mr. Smith talking about small grain the other day. What did he mean by that? Small grain is wheat, or rye, or barley, or oats, or rice. Corn is a kind of grain too; but it is not called small grain. All these kinds of grain are very useful to us. Some of them are ground into flour or meal to make bread; and the others are good to feed horses and cows.

LESSON 56. – GOING FOR WATER.

Willie, you and Bettie must go down to the spring, and bring a bucket of fresh water. Yes, ma'am: and then, when we come back, may we say our Primer lesson? Yes: go on, and be careful not to fall down nor hurt each other. Come, Bettie, let's hurry, and get back, so that we can say our lesson. Well, Willie, here we go. And now, here is the spring. – Willie, dip up the water fast, and fill the bucket quick. Now, Bettie, it is full enough. Let's hurry back. Now you are good children. Come, say your lesson.



LESSON 57. – THE BIBLE.

Lily, I told you the other day that God has given us a book, which we call the Bible, and that the Bible teaches us that, if we sin, God will put us after we die into a lake burning with fire and brimstone. We also learn from the Bible that, if we are good all the days of our lives, God will take us when we die to Himself in Heaven. We read in the Bible also of the life and death of our Saviour, and how he suffered instead of us. When you get a little older, you will be able to read the Bible for yourself; and I hope you will always love to study its lessons of divine wisdom.

LESSON 58. – FISHING.

Take a seat here on the bank of the creek, and keep as still as you can, and keep you eye on the cork; and, as soon as you see the cork sink into the water, give your pole a sudden jerk, and up will come the fish. Take him off your hook, and put him on your string; then fix your bait, and throw in your hook, and watch your cork again, and soon you will have an other. How well they bite! If they keep on so, we will soon have a long string of nice large fish. Then we will take them home to mother.



LESSON 59. – THE SAVIOUR.

Mother, please tell me something more about the Saviour. What is his name? Where was he born? What was his mother's name? Tell me all about Him, mother can not tell you all about Him, Lily: that would take too long. His name is Jesus, which means Saviour; but He is often called by His title, Christ; and often by both together, Jesus Christ. He was born at Bethlehem, a city of Judea, not far from Jerusalem. His mother's name was Mary; and her husband was a carpenter named Joseph. The Saviour was killed by wicked Jews, when He was about thirty-three years old.

LESSON 60. – THE BOAT.

Do you see the man in the boat? How can he make the boat go? Do you see the stick he has in his left hand? Yes. Well, he has an other stick just like that in his right hand. These are called oars. There are little pins of wood on the edges of the boat: and he puts the oars against these pins, with their other ends sticking into the water, and he pulls the upper ends of the oars as hard as he can, and that makes the boat move through the water. Do you see the birds flying over the boat?



LESSON 61. – CHRISTMAS.

Mother, what day of the month is this? It is twentieth of December. Then Christmas will be here in five days, will it not? Yes, my dear. Well, mother, what is Christmas for? Come, sit on my lap, and I will tell you. It is the birthday of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I told you the other day that He was born at Bethlehem, a city of Judea, not far from Jerusalem. His mother was there on business, and the hotel was crowded; so she had to stay in the stable, and there our Saviour was born. Every since then, Christmas has been kept by Christians as holy day.

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 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 to 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.

LESSON 63. – TOM JONES AGAIN.

Ah! Tom this is just what I expected long ago. The first time I saw you, you were riding on your father's ox when you had been told not to do it. The next time you were trying to fasten up your cat in a tight box. The next time you were carrying the same poor cat off somewhere, with a string tied round its neck to hang it. I told you before that I was afraid you would come to some bad end, because I saw that you were a very bad boy. And now here you are with your leg broken; and nobody has much pity for you, because you are so bad. This morning Tom's mother dressed him nicely and sent him to Sunday-school; but he went off with some bad boys to hung birds' nests: and while his poor mother was looking for him to come back from Sunday-school, these same bad boys brought him home with his leg broken. He had climbed up into a tree to get a bird's nest, and the limb had broken with him, and, in falling to the ground, he had broken his leg.

LESSON 64. – REST .

Do you see this man and his son sitting on the log? They are Mr. Smith and his son John. – They have been at work with their hoes in the hot sunshine, and they have come out to sit down awhile under this large oak tree and rest. The dog is sitting by his master's side. It is very pleasant after working hard awhile to sit down in the shade and rest. And, when night comes, the working man delights to see its shades; for then he can lie down and sleep much more soundly than those who spend their time in idleness. After resting awhile, we can go back to our work, and soon make up for the time we lost. The Christian's life is full of toil and labor, as long as he remains on earth: but he is encouraged to endure all his labors by the promise that, if he is faithful unto death, he will then enter into the rest prepared for all the people of God at His right hand in Heaven. There the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.

LESSON 65. – THE LION.

Here is a fine picture of a lion. Look at his thick heavy mane. Why, yes, papa; how thick it is! But, papa, that lion that I saw in the show last year had no mane like this; had it? No, son; that was a she lion, and this is the picture of a he one. the males all have manes; but the females have none. And don't you know, papa; that one in the show had a little young one: what do you call it? The young of lions are called whelps, my son. When a she lion has whelps, it is dangerous to go near her, unless she is fastened up in a cage; for she will jump upon a man, and tear him to pieces, if she thinks he is trying to hurt her or her whelps. Well, will the he ones hurt a man, too, papa? They very seldom hurt any one in the day time; but sometimes they come at night to places where men are camping, and fall upon a man, and kill him. Where do they come from, papa? They live mostly in Asia and Africa; but there are none in our country. When the lion roars, it sounds almost like thunder. No other beast can make so loud a noise as the lion. He is stronger, too, than almost any other beast.

LESSON 66. – THE FOX.

Look at this old fox running along the fence! He has been up to the farm-house at some mischief, I'll be bound. Why, papa, are foxes always in some mischief? Yes, my dear; they are very apt to take what does not belong to them; and they are mostly so cunning that you can not catch them t their mischief. What do they live on, papa? They eat chickens, or geese, or ducks, or rabbits, or birds, or eggs. Can they run fast, papa? Oh! yes, my son; they run very fast. None but the swiftest dogs can catch them at a fair race. And besides that, they dodge about so that they fool the dogs, and have them running all about hunting them, while they are all the time hiding in some hole and resting. In this way, it happens that you mostly have to have several dogs to catch a single fox. Well, they must be very smart. yes, son; every body has heard of the cunning of the fox. They mostly lie in their holes all day, and at night, when every body is asleep, they come out and steal what they want to eat. A fox will take a goose or a turkey by the neck, throw it on his back and carry it to his den.

LESSON 67. – THE OLD BACHELOR.

Just look at this old bachelor! How lonesome he must be! What is his name, mother? His name is Mr. John White. Why do they call him a bachelor, mother? What is a bachelor? A bachelor is a man who has never been married. If he lives single several years after he is fully grown, people begin to call him an *old* bachelor. Well, mother, uncle Ben is thirty years old, and he has never been married, you know; is he an old bachelor? Yes, my dear; he will soon be an old bachelor, if he is not one already. Well, I wish uncle Ben would get married. How old is Mr. White, mother? Nobody knows, my dear. He will never tell his age. I suppose he is getting right old. He always looks quite sad. His cat is all the company he has, except his house full of rats, and they are not very pleasant company, I am sure. Well, mother, I hope uncle Ben will never come to that.

LESSON 68. – LOVE EACH OTHER.

Here are Mrs. Black, and her three children, John, Bettie, and Sallie. Mrs. Black is sitting by herself; working on a jacket for little John. The three children are looking together at a book, that one of them is holding in her lap. the one that is holding the book is Bettie; and of course, the other girl is Sallie. These little girls are very kind to each other, and to their brother John; and John is also very good and kind to them. Mrs. Black is very happy to see her children love each other so much and their kindness to each other makes her love them much more than she would do, if they were always quarreling with each other. I hope my little readers will always try to do like these little children of Mrs. Black.

LESSON 69. – THE CHASE.

Oh! what a fine, fat hog! He looks almost fat enough to kill. But look! there come Towzer close after him. Now for a race. Hurry up, Towzer; or you will not catch him. Run, hog, run. If you don't mind, Towzer will catch you before you know it. This hog has been in the lot; and papa has set Towzer after him, to drive him out; and Towzer wants to catch him by the ear and hold him, so as to make him keep out of the lot. If Towzer does catch him, he will make him sorry that he ever went in there. I would not wonder if he would bite off one of his ears before he lets him go. Yes, but he has not caught him yet: and, if he doesn't mend his pace, I don't believe he will catch him. Well, isn't that a pretty race? Towzer has found his match this time, sure. Yes; and I thought the hog was altogether too fat to run fast. He will not want to have an other race with Towzer, though; I'll be bound. And I will not be surprised if this chase will keep him out of the lot. If hogs are allowed to get into the fields, they root up the ground and destroy the corn.

LESSON 70. – BOYS AT PLAY.

Here are John and Tom out on the lawn, playing with their ball. John has just thrown the ball to Tom, and Tom is just about to catch it in both hands. they both seem very fond of the game; and I should think from their looks they would keep on playing until they both get very tired. Ball and other outdoor games are very good for boys: but they must be careful not to play too long at any of them; for too much play will do as much harm as too little. there is not much danger, though, of school-boys playing too much; for, if they get their lessons as well as they should, they will not have time to hurt themselves by too much play.

LESSON 71. – KATIE AND HER COUSIN.

Katie Strange is a good little girl. Every body loves her, and tries to make her happy. Her cousin, John Brown, has come over to see her, and spend the day with her. He, too, is a good boy: so you may be sure they will have a pleasant day together. Katie is sitting on a stool near the table, and is pointing with her left hand to her ball under the table. John is standing near her, and seems to be listening to what she is telling him. I suppose that she is asking him whether he wants to play with her ball; and, if he is as clever as I think he is, he will do whatever she wishes. that is the way good little boys and girls ought to do. Even if they do not feel like doing any thing, they out to be willing to do it, to please their friends and playmates. Are you as good as Katie Strange and her cousin John?

LESSON 72. – THE SWANS.

Look, John, what a beautiful place this is! See the stout stone bridge over the stream! And how gently the stream glides along! You can hardly tell which way it is moving. Yes, Mary, the place is beautiful indeed; but the prettiest thing I see is this lovely pair of swans. Look how gracefully they bend their long, slim necks! Don't you think they are beautiful, sister? Yes, brother John, they are very beautiful. I think they are the prettiest birds I ever saw. And how gentle they are too, sister Mary! Look! This black one is eating from my hand. Hurry, John; it is almost time for us to be at home.

LESSON 73. – TOWZER AND THE PUPPIES.

And so Towzer, you did not catch the hog, after all. Don't you feel ashamed of yourself? – And now you have gone to playing with the puppies. Towzer is a good old dog. He loves to play with little dogs; and they love to play with him, because they know that they will not hurt them. Papa, what is that leather strap around his neck for? that is his collar, my son. He is kept fastened up mostly during the day, and he is let loose at night. What do they keep him fastened for, papa? They do this to make him a better watch dog. If he is allowed to run loose all day, he will go to sleep at night; and then, if a rogue should come to steal any thing, he would never know it, because he would be asleep. But, if he is kept chained all day, he will lie asleep nearly all the time; and then the least noise any where about the lot at night will be sure to wake him up. Well, I am sorry for poor Towzer. I wish he could run loose all the time, because he is so good to the puppies. We should be very kind to a good dog and feed him well, for he never allows any one to trouble us at night.

LESSON 74. – CHILD’S PRAYERS.

1. THE LORD’S PRAYER.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven: give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

2. MORNING PRAYER.

Now I awake and see the light;
‘Tis God who kept me through the night;
To Him I lift my voice and pray
That He will keep me through this day;
If I should die before ‘tis done,
O God, accept me through thy Son. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

No I lay me down to sleep;
I pray the Lord my soul to keep:
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take,
And this I ask for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

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