LONGMANS' "SHIP" LITERARY READERS: THE FOURTH READER, NEW IMPRESSION

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Longmans' "Ship" Literary Readers: The Fourth Reader, New Impression by Anonymous

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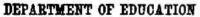
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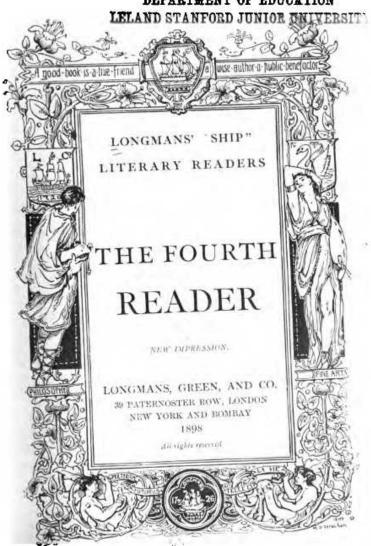
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"THE OTHER IS SLEEPING DOWN THE HOLD." See p. 4.





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THE FOURTH "SHIP" LITERARY READER.

LESSON 1.

A Narrow Escape.

E'-phra-im Jef'-fer-son en'-sign pur-su'-ers Rou'en lounged lin' stock per-se-cu'-tion Seine bulge can'-non u'-ni-form Hon-fleur bulg'-ing ho-ri'-zon op-pon'-ents ex-change' Ha'-vre ser geant sus-pi'-cion : ex-chang-ing cor-por-al im-pos-si-ble Hi'-ram Tom'-lin-son dain'-ty fresh' en ing com pla' cent ly

1. The "Golden Rod" of Boston, North America, Ephraim Savage master, was lying at Rouen, waiting for Amos Green, her owner's son, to return from Paris. When the young man appeared he brought with him the merchant at whose house he had been staying, the merchant's daughter, and her lover, an officer in the Royal Guards. These three were trying to flee from France to escape persecution for their religion. As the ship worked slowly down the Seine, they saw horsemen galloping towards Honfleur, and they began to fear that the king had ordered them to be chased and brought back.

up at the clouds once more.

three paces to our two. You, sir, take your blue coat [his uniform] off this deck, or you'll bring trouble upon us. The Lord will look after His own, if they'll only keep from foolishness. Get these hatches off, Tomlinson. So! Where's Jim Sturt and Hiram Jefferson? Let them stand by to clap them on again when I whistle. Starboard! Starboard! Keep her as full as she'll draw. Now, Amos, and you, Tomlinson, come here until I have a word with you."

3. "Thirty men," said he, "and they go

4. The three stood talking upon the poop, glancing back at their pursuers. There could be no doubt that the wind was freshening; it blew briskly in their faces as they looked back, but it was not steady yet, and the boat was

rapidly coming up to them. Already they could see the faces of the marines who sat in the stern, and the gleam of the lighted linstock which the gunner held in his hand.

- 5. "Hola!" eried an officer in good English. "Lay her to or we fire!"
- "Who are you, and what do you want?" shouted Ephraim Savage, in a voice that might have been heard from the bank.
- "We come in the king's name, and we want a party from Paris who came on board of your vessel at Rouen."
- "Brace back the foreyard and lay her to," shouted the captain. "Drop a ladder over the side there and look smart! So! Now we are ready for them."
- 6. The yard was swung round and the vessel lay quietly rising and falling on the waves. The boat dashed alongside, her brass cannon pointed to the "Golden Rod," and her squad of marines with their fingers upon their triggers ready to open fire. They grinned and shrugged their shoulders when they saw that their sole opponents were three unarmed men upon the poop. The officer, a young active fellow, was on deck in an instant with his drawn sword in his hand.
- 7. "Come up, two of you!" he cried. "You stand here at the head of the ladder, sergeant.

4 THE FOURTH "SHIP" LITERARY READER.

Throw up a rope and you can fix it here. Keep awake down there, and be all ready to fire! You come with me, corporal. Who is captain of this ship?"

- 8. "I am, sir," said Ephraim Savage mildly.
- "You have three runaways aboard?"
- "Tut! Tut! Runaways, are they? I thought they were very anxious to be gone, but as long as they paid their passage it was no business of mine. An old man, his daughter, and a young fellow about your age in some sort of livery."
- 9. "In uniform, sir! The uniform of the King's Guard. Those are the folk I have come for."
 - "And you wish to take them back?"
 - "Most certainly."
 - "Poor folk! I am sorry for them."
- "And so am I; but orders are orders, and must be done."
- 10. "Quite so. Well, the old man is in his bunk asleep. The maid is in a cabin below. And the other is sleeping down the hold there, where we had to put him, for there is no room elsewhere."
- "Sleeping, you say? We had best surprise him."
- "But think you that you dare do it alone! He has no arms, it is true, but he is a well-