

**THE 'STANDARD' SERIES OF  
ELEMENTARY READING  
BOOKS. THE FOURTH 'STANDARD'  
READER; OR, TABLES AND  
PARABLES**

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**J. S. LAURIE**

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THE 'STANDARD' SERIES  
OF  
ELEMENTARY READING BOOKS.

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THE  
FOURTH 'STANDARD' READER;

OR,  
*Fables and Parables.*

BY  
J. S. LAURIE,

EDITOR OF "THE GRADUATED SERIES OF READING-LESSON BOOKS," ETC.

LONDON:  
LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS.

—  
1868.

MEMORANDUM.

*Revised Code.*

STANDARD IV.

READING.—A short paragraph from a more advanced reading-book used in the school.

WRITING.—A sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from the same book, but not from the paragraph read.

ARITHMETIC.—A sum in compound rules (money).



## PREFACE.

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Just as the previous volume aims specially at stimulating the powers of observation in the young mind, so the present one is designed to afford material for the direct exercise of the moral sentiments and the reflective faculties. It consists of Fables and Parables. In addition to the value of this species of composition as a means of moral training, the opportunity it presents of trying the pupil's ingenuity, by requiring him to find out the "application," will not be lightly estimated by competent teachers. In order to afford perfect facilities for this exercise, the "moral" of the Fables has in general been omitted. And, instead of the usual titles, appropriate proverbs and people's sayings have been substituted — an expedient which has the twofold advantage of disseminating a knowledge of these traditional maxims themselves, and of supplying an interesting set of intellectual problems to the pupils, who will be expected to discover and

explain the connection between the Fables and the headings under which they are placed.

The unusual shortness of the pieces, as reading exercises, will be found to be an advantage. The amount of repetition which it will necessitate will not by any means be superfluous; and every teacher knows what a spirit of emulation is produced by requiring different pupils to read the same lesson.

The versified Fables that are interspersed throughout the volume are intended to give variety, and the same fable is occasionally given both in prose and verse.

The columns of meanings which head the lessons in this, as well as in the preceding and succeeding volume, should be previously prepared by the pupil (perhaps as a home-lesson), and even further extended by him.

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*\*.\* The writer of the majority of the versified Fables is the Rev. James Davies, whose courtesy, as well as that of the publishers of his work,\* the Editor gratefully acknowledges. He has also to express his obligations to Mr. Lumley, † for facilities afforded him in carrying the present volume through the press.*

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\* *Fables of Babrius (Æsop)*, Translated into English Verse. Lockwood and Co.

† *Fables and Allegories*; also, *Book of Fables*. E. Lumley.



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THE  
FOURTH 'STANDARD' READER.

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*pin*      *naught*      *with*      *true*      *through*  
*needle*      *brought*      *without*      *grew*      *threw*

Turn the conversation, *talk of something else.*  
Retorted, *returned, answered sharply.*

QUARRELLING DOGS COME HALTING  
HOME.

A PIN and a Needle were lying close together on a little table. They had nothing to do, and so they began to quarrel.

The Pin said to the Needle, "I should like to know what you are good for. How can you expect to get through the world without a head?"

The Needle replied rather sharply, "Leave me alone as to that; but what is the use of *your* head, pray, if you have no eye?"

"And what is the use of your eye, Miss Needle, if there is always something in it?"

The Needle was rather at a loss for an answer, so she turned the conversation. "I am more active than you," said she; "I go through more work than you!"

"That may be," retorted the Pin, "but you will not live long."

"Why not, Master Round-head?"

"Because you cannot bend without breaking your back."

This was so true that the Needle grew angry, and said, "As to you, you are a crooked, ugly fellow!"