

**THE NATIONAL SECOND READER:
CONTAINING LESSONS IN PUNCTUATION;
AND PROGRESSIVE AND PLEASING EXERCISES
IN READING, ACCOMPANIED WITH SIMPLE
AND COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITIONS AND THE
PRONUNCIATION OF ALL DOUBTFUL WORDS**

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The national second reader: containing lessons in punctuation; and progressive and pleasing exercises in reading, accompanied with simple and comprehensive definitions and the pronunciation of all doubtful words by Richard Green Parker

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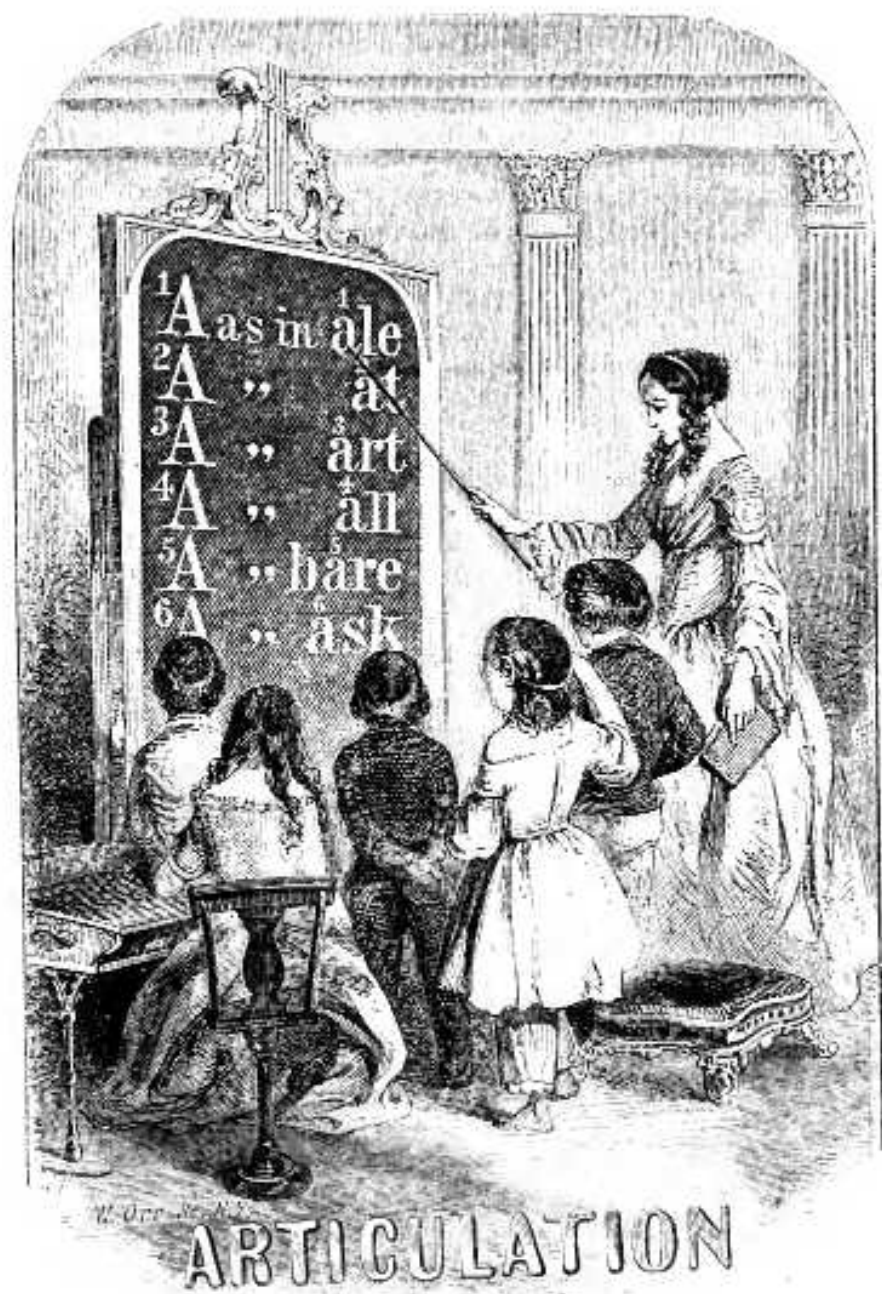
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RICHARD GREEN PARKER

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REVISED EDITION.

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By RICHARD GREENE PARKER
AND
J. MADISON WATSON.



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P R E F A C E .

THIS volume, though designed to follow "The Word-Builder," is complete in itself, and may be used as a *Second Reader* in any series. In its preparation, we have aimed to adapt the exercises and lessons to the special wants of the pupil; and, while avoiding a feeble and puerile style, to reconcile simplicity with pure literary taste. Beginning with lessons more easy than some at the close of the preceding work, its gradation is so complete, that the learner, almost insensibly overcoming obstacles, at its close will be thoroughly prepared for the succeeding volume.

In Part First, a few simple and comprehensive reading lessons are prepared, to amuse and interest the pupil, to teach him the names of the *points* used in this work, and, as far as may be, give him a practical knowledge of punctuation as applied to reading.

Articulation and *Orthoepy* are recognized as of primary importance. Complete exercises on the elementary sounds and their combinations are so introduced as to teach but one element at a time, and to apply this knowledge to use as soon as it is acquired.

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Children, in first attempting to read, find great difficulty in determining the correct pronunciation of the separate words. As usually taught, they are of necessity so intent upon this that they almost wholly lose sight of the connection, sense, and sentiment, and thus contract vicious habits, which, in most instances, remain through life. To avoid this difficulty, and to enable pupils to read understandingly and with ease, each reading lesson is preceded by a list of the more difficult words, arranged for a class exercise in pronunciation.

Clear and satisfactory definitions of words not easily understood by the pupil, as well as all necessary explanations, are given on the pages where they occur. Another feature which we consider of especial importance, is the introduction of numerous dialogues and pieces of a conversational nature.

As most of the lessons are original, or have been rewritten for this little work, a list of the names of authors is deemed unnecessary. To one gentleman in particular, however, the authors of this volume confess themselves much indebted, for the liberty so freely given to avail themselves of his labors. We refer to T. S. Arthur, Esq., whose beautiful tales and stories are read with so much avidity by the rising generation.

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