

**THE CLASS AND STANDARD  
SERIES OF READING  
BOOKS. BOOK IV  
(STANDARD IV); PP. 105-200**

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The Class and Standard Series of Reading Books. Book IV (Standard IV); pp. 105-200 by Charles Bilton

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**CHARLES BILTON**

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BOOKS. BOOK IV  
(STANDARD IV); PP. 105-200**



THE CLASS AND STANDARD SERIES

OF

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ADAPTED TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVISED CODE.

BY

CHARLES BILTON, B.A.

BOOK IV.

(STANDARD IV.)

SECOND PART.

SPECIAL LESSONS FOR BOYS.

LONDON:

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

1870.

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PART SECOND.

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WHANG, THE MILLER.

WHANG, the miller, was naturally avaricious; nobody loved money better than he, or more respected those that had it. When people were talking of a rich man in company, Whang would say, 'I know him very well; he and I have long been acquainted; he and I are intimate.' But if ever a poor man was mentioned, he had not the least knowledge of the man; he might be very well for aught he knew; but he was not fond of making many acquaintances, and loved to choose his company.

Whang, however, with all his eagerness for riches, was in reality poor. He had nothing but the profits of his mill to support him; but though these were small, they were certain; while his mill stood and went, he was sure of eating; and his frugality was such, that he every day laid some money by, which he would, at intervals, count and contemplate with much satisfaction. Yet, still his acquisitions were not equal to his desires; he only found himself above want, whereas he desired to be possessed of affluence.

One day, as he was indulging these wishes, he was informed that a neighbour of his had found a pan of money under ground, having dreamed of it three nights running before. These tidings were daggers to the heart of poor Whang. 'Here am I,' says he, 'toiling and moiling from morning to night for a few paltry farthings, while neighbour Hnks only goes quietly to bed, and dreams himself into thousands before morning. Oh that I could dream like him! with what pleasure would I dig round the pan; how sily would I carry it home; not even my wife should see me; and then, oh the pleasure of thrusting one's hand into a heap of gold up to the elbow!'

Such reflections only served to make the miller unhappy; he became less attentive to his business, he was quite disgusted with small gains, and his customers began to forsake him. Every day he repeated the wish, and every night laid himself down in order to dream. Fortune, that was for a long time unkind, at last, however, seemed to smile upon his distresses, and indulged him with the wished-for vision. He dreamed that under a certain part of the foundation of his mill there was concealed an immense pan of gold and diamonds,

buried deep in the ground, and covered with a large flat stone. He concealed his good luck from every person, as is usual in money dreams, in order to have the vision repeated the two succeeding nights, by which he should be certain of its truth. His wishes in this also were answered; he still dreamed of the same pan of money, in the very same place.

Now, therefore, it was past a doubt; so getting up early the third morning, he repaired alone with a mattock in his hand to the mill, and began to undermine that part of the wall which the vision directed. The first omen of success that he met was a broken mug; digging still deeper, he turned up a house-tile quite new and entire. At last, after much digging, he came to a broad flat stone, but so large that it was beyond one man's strength to remove it. 'Here,' cried he in raptures to himself, 'here it is! under this stone there is room for a very large pan of diamonds indeed. I must at once go home to my wife, tell her the whole affair, and get her to assist me in turning it up.' Away, therefore, he goes, and acquaints his wife with every circumstance of his good fortune. Her raptures on this occasion may easily be imagined; she flew round his neck, and embraced him in an agony of joy; but those transports, however, did not delay their eagerness to know the exact sum. Returning, therefore, together to the place where Whang had been digging, there they found—not indeed the expected treasure—but the mill, their only support, undermined and fallen!