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# **The Children'S First Reader**

**Cyr Ellen M**

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**Title: The Children'S First Reader**

**Author: Cyr Ellen M**

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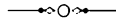
THE CHILDREN'S  
FOURTH READER

BY

ELLEN M. CYR

AUTHOR OF THE CHILDREN'S PRIMER, CHILDREN'S FIRST READER,  
CHILDREN'S SECOND READER, CHILDREN'S  
THIRD READER, ETC.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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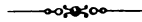
WITH THE

LOVE OF HIS WIFE





## PREFACE.



LITERATURE in its noblest form should do for the child what it does for the man, — open the eyes to clearer vision, and nourish and inspire the soul.

The reading book, therefore, has more direct influence upon the character of the pupil than any other text-book, and, with this in mind, it has been the fundamental purpose of this series to make its readers familiar with the best writers and their works.

It has been deemed best to continue the plan of the previous books of the series and introduce several central figures. We have been reading and becoming acquainted with the American poets ; now we enter a new field of literature, and the great prose writers, Hawthorne, Irving, Dickens, and Scott, with the English poet Tennyson, shed the influence of their characters and writings in the schoolroom.

The pupil looks into their faces and visits their homes. Their early childhood, their battles with adversity, and the influences that determined the current of their lives become familiar. Then, with awakened interest and admiration, he reads the messages they have left behind them.

Characteristic selections from these authors have been carefully chosen with reference to the capacity of the children.

These selections have been somewhat abridged, but it has been thought wiser to have them a little longer than many text-books introduce, rather than to mar the symmetry and beauty of the author's work.

Here are also represented the more recent writers who have won a place in the literary world, thus making this reading book the foundation for a systematic study of literature.

In order to cherish the true American spirit, speeches of some of our great statesmen and stories of loyalty and heroism have been introduced. There are tales of travel and adventure to broaden the mental horizon, and the imagination finds food for fancies in many of the prose selections as well as in the poems.

Grateful acknowledgment for copyright matter is extended to Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. for the use of extracts from the writings of Hawthorne, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, and Charles Dudley Warner; to Charles Scribner's Sons for the selections from Eugene Field, Thomas Nelson Page, and Josiah Gilbert Holland; to The Century Co. for stories by Victor Mapes and Harriet Prescott Spofford; to Roberts Bros. for poems by Helen Hunt Jackson; and to G. P. Putnam's Sons for selections from Bayard Taylor; also to the following authors: Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford, and Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward; Mr. Henry L. Koopman, Mr. Victor Mapes, and Mr. Charles Dudley Warner.

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