



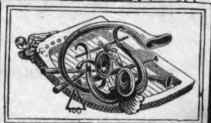
HARPER'S SERIES.
 School and Family Readers.

THE
**THIRD
 READER**

OF THE
SCHOOL AND FAMILY
 SERIES.

BY
MARCUS WILSON,
 AUTHOR OF PRIMARY HISTORY; HISTORY OF
 THE UNITED STATES; AMERICAN HISTORY;
 OUTLINES OF GENERAL HISTORY.

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 ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
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TO THE TEACHER.

I. It is supposed that those pupils who have gone through the First and Second Readers, and observed the inflections as there designated, have progressed so far in forming *habits* of correct reading that they may now profitably give some attention to elocutionary principles and rules. We suggest, therefore, that the reading-class should repeatedly go through with the "Elements of Elocution," not only by reading aloud the examples, but by selecting daily, at the beginning or close of each reading exercise, and from whatever sources they choose, examples illustrating *some one Rule* or Note.

II. As the more difficult words in each reading lesson are defined at its close, and in that particular sense in which they are used in the passages referred to, these definitions may be made to contribute greatly to a correct knowledge of the lesson read. To this end the lesson should always be studied *in advance* by the pupil, who, after reading a verse, should explain these more difficult words by *substituting* in their places either the definitions given, or such terms of his own selection as may answer the same purpose. The benefits of this defining exercise to pupils in this stage of advancement will not be inconsiderable; for, besides contributing to a better knowledge of the lessons read, it will cultivate a *habit* of reading understandingly, and also call particular attention to the meaning of nearly a thousand individual words in this Reader alone.

III. In the words defined, particular attention should be paid to their correct *accentuation*, and also to the correct *sounds of the letters*, as designated by the accompanying marks, which are explained by the Pronouncing Key on page 14. The pupil should be required to give the authority for the pronunciation of all the more difficult or uncommon words defined by reference to the Key; thus, *Итѣн'-иѣнѣ*, "Italian sound of *a*, as in *fär, fäther*; *e* hard, like *k*; *i* long; and soft *a*, like *z*." This will compel a familiarity with the Key, and train the ear to nice distinctions of sounds, indispensable requisites in securing a cultivated elocutionary taste.

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P R E F A C E.

IN the THIRD READER of the "School and Family Series" the Elocutionary Rules contained in the Second are repeated in that part entitled "Elements of Elocution," with some few additions. Instead of multiplying sets of rules, which only serve to perplex both teacher and pupils, we have given *the same* brief rules, for convenience of reference, in all the Readers.

The First Part of this Reader, entitled "Stories from the Bible," and comprising a connected series of sketches of some of the most interesting portions of sacred history, with poetical selections, etc., furnishes some very fine lessons in reading; and the whole has sufficient variety not to become monotonous. The *Illustrations* in this part (by Adams), which are unsurpassed in artistic execution, will not only be found to give much additional interest to the narrative, but, it is believed, will do much to cultivate in children a taste for the beautiful.

Part Second, although specially designed to convey moral instruction, through the medium of "Moral Lessons," is not peculiar in its *tendencies*, as no pains have been spared to give *all* the Readers not only a moral, but a *Christian* influence. To this end, the numerous opportunities which are presented, throughout all the departments of Natural History, of illustrating the wisdom, goodness, and power of the Creator, have not been neglected.

In the Third Part, which treats of the first great division of animal life, the attempt has been made, and, it is hoped, successfully, to invest the subject with a great degree of *interest* for children; to *popularize* it to their capacities; to give all desirable *variety* to the lessons, as exercises in reading; and to convey as much positive *information* as would be compatible with these requisites for a good reading-book. As *narrative* is that kind of reading which is easiest understood by children, it is employed here, to a great extent, in the descriptive portions, while numerous interesting incidents of animal life, illustrating traits of character, habits, etc., and both poetical and prose selections, effectually relieve it of that *sameness* of style and matter which is found in works of merely descriptive zoology.

In the Fourth Part, "Miscellaneous," we have retained a few old selections, because they have stood the test of Time—the only true standard of taste—and because, although old to *us*, they will be new to every succeeding generation.

To the artist, Charles Parsons, Esq., of this city, I am under great obligations for the beautiful manner in which he has carried out my views in the Natural History illustrations in this and other numbers of the series, and also for many beautiful designs in other portions of the works.

M. WILLSON.

CONTENTS.

| | Page |
|--|------|
| ELEMENTS OF ELOCUTION | 7 |
| Key to the Sounds of the Letters | 14 |

PART I.

STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.

| Lesson | | |
|--------|--|----|
| I. | <i>My Mother's Bible</i> | 15 |
| II. | The Creation | 16 |
| III. | The Beginning of Sin. <i>The Garden of Eden</i> | 17 |
| IV. | Cain and Abel | 19 |
| V. | The Flood | 20 |
| VI. | <i>Destruction of the Wicked by the Flood</i> | 23 |
| VII. | <i>The Ark and Dove</i> | 24 |
| VIII. | <i>The Return of the Dove</i> | 25 |
| IX. | Abraham and Lot; Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah | 25 |
| X. | Abraham offering Isaac | 27 |
| XI. | Isaac and Rebecca | 29 |
| XII. | Jacob and Esau | 30 |
| XIII. | Jacob's History | 33 |
| XIV. | Joseph and his Brethren | 34 |
| XV. | Joseph a Prisoner in Egypt | 36 |
| XVI. | Joseph Governor of Egypt | 39 |
| XVII. | Joseph makes himself known to his Brethren | 41 |
| XVIII. | The Story of Moses | 46 |
| XIX. | <i>Moses saved by the King's Daughter</i> | 48 |
| XX. | David and Goliath | 50 |
| XXI. | David, Saul, and Jonathan | 53 |
| XXII. | Solomon, the Wise King | 57 |
| XXIII. | Wise Sayings and Advice of King Solomon | 60 |
| XXIV. | <i>Worth of the Scriptures</i> | 63 |

PART II.

MORAL LESSONS.

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| I. | Charlie Porter | 63 |
| II. | Be honest, and dare to tell the Truth | 64 |
| III. | George Jones and Charles Barlow | 66 |
| IV. | Three Lessons of Industry. <i>Little by Little</i> | 68 |
| V. | Robert Bruce and Timour the Tartar | 70 |
| VI. | The Boy who was told to try again | 71 |
| VII. | <i>Try Again</i> | 73 |
| VIII. | Story of John Martin | 74 |
| IX. | The First Temptation | 78 |
| X. | <i>How big was Alexander?</i> | 80 |
| XI. | <i>Earthly and Heavenly Interest</i> | 82 |
| XII. | The Two Robbers | 83 |
| XIII. | <i>Be kind to the Loved Ones at Home</i> | 85 |
| XIV. | <i>My Father's at the Helm</i> | 86 |

PART III.

ZOOLOGY.

THE MAMMALIA, OR FIRST PART OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ANIMALS.

INTRODUCTORY LESSON.

| | |
|---|----|
| Orders into which the Mammalia are divided..... | 87 |
|---|----|

CHAPTER I.

FOUR-HANDED ANIMALS (*Quadrumana*).

| | |
|--|----|
| I. Divisions of the Monkey Tribe | 89 |
| II. Apes. The Orang-Outang | 90 |

* Those designated by italics are in poetry.

| Lesson | Page |
|---|------|
| III. Story of a Young Orang-Outang..... | 98 |
| IV. Monkeys and Baboons of the Old World..... | 98 |
| V. Story of a Senegal Monkey..... | 98 |
| VI. The Monkeys of South America..... | 101 |
| VII. <i>The Monkey</i> | 108 |
| VIII. The Lemurs and the Bats..... | 104 |

CHAPTER II.

CARNIVOROUS OR FLESH-EATING ANIMALS.

First Division: Animals of the CAT KIND (*Felidae*), embracing Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Lynxes, Panthers, and both the wild and the tame Cats.

| | |
|---|-----|
| I. The Lion..... | 107 |
| II. Anecdotes of Lions..... | 109 |
| III. A Lion Hunt..... | 113 |
| IV. <i>The Lion and Giraffe</i> | 115 |
| V. The Tiger, and other Animals of the Cat kind..... | 117 |
| VI. Anecdotes of the Tiger..... | 190 |
| VII. Anecdotes of Cats..... | 193 |
| VIII. <i>The Kitten playing with falling Leaves</i> | 196 |
| IX. <i>The Menagerie</i> | 197 |

Second Division of the Carnivorous or Flesh-eating Quadrupeds: Animals of the DOG KIND, embracing the Dogs, Wolves, Foxes, Jackals, and Hyenas.

| | |
|---|-----|
| X. Animals of the Dog kind..... | 180 |
| XI. Character and Habits of Wolves..... | 183 |
| XII. The Fiddler and the Wolves..... | 186 |
| XIII. Character and Habits of Foxes..... | 189 |
| XIV. Another Fox Story..... | 143 |
| XV. Character and Habits of Dogs..... | 144 |
| XVI. The French Merchant and his Dog..... | 148 |
| XVII. <i>The Old Shepherd's Dog</i> | 151 |

Third Division of the Carnivorous or Flesh-eating Quadrupeds: Animals of the WEASEL KIND, embracing the Weasel, the Ermine, the Mink, the Skunk, the Sable, the Martens, and the Otters.

| | |
|--|-----|
| XVIII. Animals of the Weasel kind (<i>Mustelidae</i>)..... | 159 |
| XIX. Character and Habits of | |
| I. The Weasel..... | 155 |
| II. The Mink..... | 156 |
| III. The Ferret..... | 158 |
| IV. The Otter..... | 160 |

Fourth Division of the Carnivorous or Flesh-eating Quadrupeds: Animals of the BEAR KIND, embracing the Bear, the Raccoon, the Badger, the Coati, the Wolverine, the Grison, the Ratel, and the Panda.

| | |
|--|-----|
| XX. Animals of the Bear kind (<i>Ursidae</i>)..... | 163 |
| XXI. The Bear: its Character and Habits illustrated: | |
| I. The Grizzly Bear..... | 164 |
| II. The Polar Bear..... | 166 |

Fifth Division of the Carnivorous or Flesh-eating Quadrupeds: Animals of the SEAL KIND, embracing the Common Seals, the Sea Lion, Sea Bear, and Walrus.

| | |
|---|-----|
| XXII. Animals of the Seal kind (<i>Phocidae</i>)..... | 169 |
| XXIII. Their Character and Habits illustrated: | |
| I. The Common Seals..... | 173 |
| II. The Sea Lion..... | 176 |
| III. The Walrus, or Sea Horse..... | 177 |

Sixth Division of the Carnivorous or Flesh-eating Quadrupeds: Animals of the SHREW KIND, embracing the Hedgehog, the Shrews, and the Moles.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| XXIV. Animals of the Shrew kind..... | 180 |
|--------------------------------------|-----|

CHAPTER III.

HOOFED QUADRUPEDS (*Ungulata*).

First Division: THICK-SKINNED QUADRUPEDS; embracing the Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Horse, Swine, Hyrax, Tapir, etc.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| I. The Elephant..... | 182 |
| <i>The Wild Elephant</i> | 184 |

| Lesson | | Page |
|---|---|------|
| II. | Character and Habits of the Elephant..... | 185 |
| III. | The Rhinoceros and the Hippopotamus..... | 187 |
| IV. | Animals of the Swine kind. <i>The Wild Boar</i> | 189 |
| V. | Animals of the Horse kind..... | 191 |
| VI. | Anecdotes of the Horse..... | 193 |
| VII. | <i>Work Horses resting on a Sunday</i> | 198 |
| | <i>The Steed Gamarrs</i> | 199 |
| VIII. | The Wild Horse of the Prairies..... | 200 |
| | <i>Herd of Wild Tartar Horses</i> | 201 |
| IX. | <i>The Arab's Farewell to his Horse</i> | 203 |
| Second Division of the Hoofed Quadrupeds: the RUMINATING ANIMALS; embracing the Camels and Giraffe, Animals of the Deer kind, of the Ox kind, Sheep and Goats, and Antelopes. | | |
| X. | Camels and Giraffes..... | 205 |
| XI. | <i>The Camel</i> | 207 |
| XII. | Animals of the Deer kind (<i>Cervidae</i>)..... | 209 |
| XIII. | Deer Hunting..... | 213 |
| XIV. | <i>The Reindeer</i> | 215 |
| XV. | Animals of the Ox kind (<i>Bovidae</i>)..... | 217 |
| XVI. | Sheep (<i>Ovidae</i>), and Goats (<i>Capridae</i>)..... | 219 |
| XVII. | <i>The Pet Lamb</i> | 223 |
| XVIII. | <i>Lambs at Play</i> | 223 |
| XIX. | Animals of the Antelope kind (<i>Antilopidae</i>)..... | 225 |
| XX. | <i>Afar in the Desert: Nature's Solitude</i> | 227 |
| XXI. | Toothless Quadrupeds (<i>Edentata</i>)..... | 230 |

CHAPTER IV.

GNAWING QUADRUPEDS (*Rodentia*).

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| I. | Gnawing Quadrupeds..... | 231 |
| II. | <i>The Squirrel</i> | 235 |

CHAPTER V.

POUCHED QUADRUPEDS (*Marsupialia*)..... 236

CHAPTER VI.

ANIMALS OF THE WHALE KIND (*Cetacea*)..... 238

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Zoology, and what it Teaches..... | 240 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|

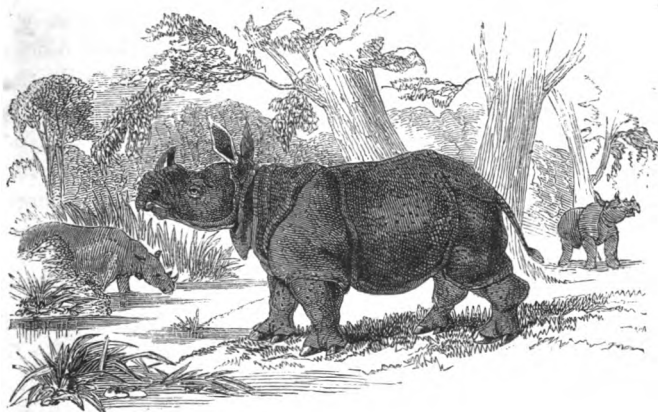
PART IV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| I. | The Discontented Pendulum..... | 243 |
| II. | Spring..... | 246 |
| III. | Summer..... | 247 |
| IV. | Autumn..... | 248 |
| V. | Winter..... | 249 |
| VI. | The Story of George Andrews..... | 250 |
| VII. | My Mother's Grave..... | 253 |
| VIII. | <i>The Old Arm-chair</i> | 255 |
| IX. | The Journey of a Day..... | 256 |
| X. | Journey of a Day— <i>Continued</i> | 259 |
| XI. | <i>The Frost</i> | 261 |
| XII. | <i>The Nine Parts of Speech</i> | 262 |
| XIII. | <i>Trust in God and do the Right</i> | 263 |
| XIV. | <i>God is Love</i> | 264 |
| | <i>Daily Counsel</i> | 264 |

LESSON III.

THE RHINOCEROS AND THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.



One-horned Indian Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornus*. Two-horned African Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros bicornus*.

1. THE rhinoceros,¹ which is a very uncouth²-looking creature, is a native of the warm regions of Africa and Asia, inhabiting districts where there is much vegetation and abundance of water. There are several species, some having but one horn, and others two, but otherwise differing chiefly in size and in the shape of the head.

2. A full-grown rhinoceros is about five feet in height, which is about half the length of the body. It often weighs from two to three tons. The horns vary from a few inches to more than four feet in length. It is believed that the unicorn mentioned in the Bible was the one-horned rhinoceros.

3. The rhinoceros has a very thick and tough skin, which hangs in large folds over the body, and is destitute of hair except a little between the shoulders, a tuft at the end of the tail, and on the tips of the ears. It feeds chiefly on vegetables, tender branches of trees, and grasses. It

is a slovenly³ animal, much like the hog in its character and habits; but when aroused it is furious and revengeful; and as it possesses enormous strength, neither the lion, the tiger, nor the elephant will often attack it.

4. Although generally an inoffensive animal, it will sometimes attack a whole company of men. Two officers belonging to that part of the English army in India that was stationed⁴ near Patna went out with their servants on a hunting expedition. One morning, as they were rising just about daybreak to go in quest⁵ of game, they heard a violent uproar, and on looking out, found that a rhinoceros was goring⁶ their horses, both of which, being fastened with ropes, were unable to escape or resist.

5. The servants fled immediately, and hid themselves in the jungles near by; and the two officers had barely time to climb up into a small tree not far distant, when the furious beast, having killed the horses, turned his attention to their masters. They were barely out of his reach, and by no means free from danger, as he seemed determined to tear the tree down. After keeping them in dreadful suspense⁷ for some time, seeing the sun rise, he began to retreat; but he occasionally stopped and looked back, as if half inclined to return, and as if he regretted to leave what he had not the power to destroy.

6. The hippopotamus,⁸ or river horse, is quite as uncouth-looking as the rhinoceros. His head is large; his mouth is enormous; his body is of great bulk, fat and round, and often from nine to twelve feet in length; his skin is more than an inch thick, and his legs are very short and clumsy. On land



Hippopotamus, *Hippopotamus amphibius*.

the hippopotamus makes slow progress; but in the water, which is his native element, he swims and dives like a duck.

7. The hippopotamus is found only in Africa. It seldom leaves the water except during the night, when it comes out to feed on grass, roots, and the stems of water-plants. When near cultivated districts it sometimes comes forth in herds of from ten to fifty, and ravages fields of rice and grain, destroying more by the treading of its enormous feet than it eats.

1 RHĪ-NŌŌ'-E-ROS (*ri-nōō'-e-rōs*).

2 UN-CŌUTH', odd: strange.

3 SLŌV'-EN-LY, filthy.

4 STĀ'-TIONED, posted; placed.

5 QUĒST, search of.

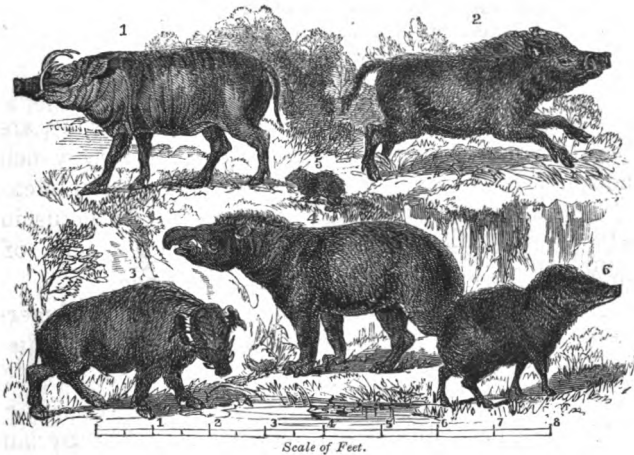
6 GŌB'-ING, stabbing; piercing.

7 SUS-PĒNSE', anxiety.

8 HIP-PO-PŪT'-A-MUS.

LESSON IV.

ANIMALS OF THE SWINE KIND (*SUIDÆ*).



1. Babiroussa, or Wild Hog of the Molucca Islands, *Sus Babiroussa*. 2. Wild Boar of Europe, *Sus scrofa*, or *ferus*. 3. Ethiopian Wild Boar, or Wart Hog, *Sus larvatus*. 4. American Tapir, *Tapirus Americanus*. 5. Syrian Hyrax, *Hyrax Syriacus*. 6. White-lipped Peccary of South America, *Sus*, or *Dicotyles labiatus*.

1. AMONG the hoofed quadrupeds of the thick-skinned order which have been classed with the rhinoceros and the hippopotamus, are those of the swine kind, which include the domestic hog, the wild hogs, of which there are several species, and also the peccaries¹ and the tapirs.²

None of these are very interesting animals, although the hog is very useful on account of its flesh, which is eaten by all people except Jews.

2. The wild boar is still found in the large forests of Europe, but is most numerous in Southern Asia. It was once common in England, where the hunting of it was a favorite, but sometimes dangerous amusement. The killing of a wild boar is well described in the following lines :

3. "Forth from a thicket rushed another boar,
So large, he seem'd the tyrant of the woods,
With all his dreadful bristles raised on high ;
They seem'd a grove of spears upon his back.
Foaming, he came at me, where I was posted,
Whetting his huge long tusks, and gaping wide,
As he already had me for his prey ;
Till, brandishing my well-pois'd javelin on high,
With this bold executing arm I struck
The ugly brindled³ monster to the heart."—OTWAY.

4. The peccaries, which are a kind of wild swine, are natives of South America. The collared⁴ peccary, which is the smallest, is found in considerable numbers in Mexico. The white-lipped peccary is found in vast herds in South America, sometimes spreading over a mile of ground, and directed⁵ by one which is the leader.

5. The tapir, which is the largest animal of South America, is hunted for its skin, and also for its flesh. Its disposition is peaceful, but it will defend itself vigorously if attacked. When tamed it becomes as familiar as a dog.

6. The smallest animal in this division is the Syrian hyrax, a rabbit-like and timid little creature, which is the same as the cony mentioned in the Bible. It is still found among the rocks of Mount Lebanon, living upon grain, fruit, and roots. "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats ; and the rocks for the conies." (Prov., xxx., 26, and Psalm civ., 18.)

¹ PĒŌ'-CA-SY.

² TĀ'-PIR.

³ BRIN'-DLED, spotted.

⁴ CŌL'-LARED, having a stripe or collar around the neck.

⁵ DĪ-RĒCT'-ED, led or guided.