

**LONGMANS' MODERN
SERIES. THE ILLUSTRATED
READERS, SECOND BOOK**

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Longmans' Modern Series. The Illustrated Readers, Second Book by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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READERS, SECOND BOOK**

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Longmans' Modern Series

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THE

ILLUSTRATED READERS

SECOND BOOK



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(to meet the Requirements of the Code of 1885)

LONDON  
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1885

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## CONTENTS.

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|                                                                                  | PAGE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| THE ANCIENT BRITONS . . . . .                                                    | 7    |
| THE BOASTING WOLF . . . . .                                                      | 10   |
| SUPPOSE . . . . .                                                                | 13   |
| THE COMING SUMMER . . . . .                                                      | 14   |
| DICTATION EXERCISES . . . . .                                                    | 15   |
| SIR EDWIN LANDSEER ( <i>By permission of the Sunday School Union</i> ) . . . . . | 16   |
| THE TRAVELLER AND THE MONKEY . . . . .                                           | 19   |
| RECEIPT FOR A RACKET ( <i>From 'The Liverpool Daily Post'</i> ) . . . . .        | 21   |
| THE EAGLE . . . . .                                                              | 24   |
| THREE BRAVE DOGS . . . . .                                                       | 28   |
| THE MANDARIN AND HIS RAT ( <i>From 'Harper's Young People'</i> ) . . . . .       | 32   |
| A LETTER . . . . .                                                               | 34   |
| BOSSY'S FRIGHT ( <i>From 'The Boston Nursery'</i> ) . . . . .                    | 37   |
| THE ROOK AND THE LARK . . . . .                                                  | 40   |
| THE RABBIT . . . . .                                                             | 42   |
| A GUESSING STORY . . . . .                                                       | 45   |
| OVER THE SEA ( <i>By permission</i> ) . . . . .                                  | 48   |
| THE HONEST GIRL . . . . .                                                        | 50   |
| THE FOX AND THE CAT . . . . .                                                    | 53   |
| SNOW-FLAKES . . . . .                                                            | 56   |
| THE HORSE . . . . .                                                              | 58   |
| THE FOX AND THE GERSE . . . . .                                                  | 62   |

|                                                                                                 | PAGE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| THE WELCOME SPARROW ( <i>From 'The Sunday School Union Magazine,' by permission</i> ) . . . . . | 65   |
| ALFRED THE GREAT . . . . .                                                                      | 67   |
| THE FOX AND THE HORSE . . . . .                                                                 | 72   |
| THE VILLAGE GREEN . . . . .                                                                     | 76   |
| SHEEP . . . . .                                                                                 | 78   |
| THE SQUIRREL AND THE MASTIFF . . . . .                                                          | 82   |
| SNOW . . . . .                                                                                  | 85   |
| THE BREAD-FRUIT TREE . . . . .                                                                  | 87   |
| STORY ABOUT BUTTER-MAKING . . . . .                                                             | 90   |
| DICTATION EXERCISES . . . . .                                                                   | 93   |
| WHY SOME BIRDS HOP AND OTHERS WALK . . . . .                                                    | 94   |
| GOLDEN RULES . . . . .                                                                          | 96   |
| MILK . . . . .                                                                                  | 97   |
| THE DONKEY AND THE PACK-HORSE . . . . .                                                         | 100  |
| NEVER OUT OF SIGHT ( <i>By permission of E. Bain &amp; Sons</i> ) . . . . .                     | 103  |
| TREATMENT OF ANIMALS . . . . .                                                                  | 105  |
| NEVER TELL A LIE! . . . . .                                                                     | 108  |
| THE EGG GATHERERS . . . . .                                                                     | 109  |
| DICTATION EXERCISES . . . . .                                                                   | 111  |
| WORK ( <i>By permission of Mr. W. Iebister</i> ) . . . . .                                      | 112  |
| THE CAMEL . . . . .                                                                             | 114  |
| THE LAZY RAT. PART I. . . . .                                                                   | 117  |
| "    "    PART II. . . . .                                                                      | 120  |
| THE BEAR IN SCHOOL . . . . .                                                                    | 123  |
| A LEAP FOR LIFE. . . . .                                                                        | 125  |
| THE LIGHTHOUSE . . . . .                                                                        | 127  |
| VISIT TO A LIGHTHOUSE. PART I. . . . .                                                          | 131  |
| "    "    PART II. . . . .                                                                      | 133  |
| THE HOLIDAY . . . . .                                                                           | 136  |
| SPELLING LESSONS . . . . .                                                                      | 137  |
| MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION TABLES . . . . .                                                    | 141  |



THE  
ILLUSTRATED READERS.

*SECOND BOOK.*

THE ANCIENT BRITONS.

|          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| wav-ing  | nei-ther  | chim-neys |
| fruits   | o-pen-ing | pro-tect  |
| be-lieve | paint-ed  | peo-ple   |
| wolves   | cov-er-ed | leath-er  |

1. A long time ago the country now called England was covered with thick forests. When you look around and see fields waving with yellow corn, and gardens full of fruits and flowers, you will find it hard to believe that the same place was perhaps once a dark forest, with bears and wolves running wild in it.

2. In those days, too, there were neither roads nor bridges, and hardly any corn was grown in the whole country.

3. But it is about the people called Britons—who lived in this land nineteen hundred years ago—that I wish to speak.

4. They were good-looking, and their long dark hair hung loosely about their necks. If they wore any dress at all, it was



made from the skins of wild beasts. Some of them painted their bodies.

5. At first they lived in caves; but, in course of time, they made huts of basket-work—of a round form—somewhat like a bee-hive. These were without windows or chimneys, but an opening was left at the

top through which light and air were let in the room, and smoke got away.

6. The huts were covered over with mud to keep out the wind and rain, and were placed in the middle of woods, or on high hills, where the people could best protect themselves from their foes and wild beasts.

7. A good many huts were put near each other, around which the Britons dug a ditch, and made a wall of the trunks of trees, so as to be safer from harm.

8. They slept upon beds made of grass or heather, which in winter were covered with skins. For food they gathered roots, berries, and acorns. Flocks of sheep and herds of cattle were also kept in some parts, and they added to their stores of meat and clothing by hunting the wild animals with which the woods abounded.

9. The Britons could make a strange kind of boat, which was covered with leather; they also made bows, arrows, and even swords.

**dark forest** : where a large number of trees grew very close together.

**caves** : hollows in the side of a hill or mountain.

**foes** : those who would harm them

**heather** : a small shrub which grows on a heath.

**acorns** : the fruit of the oak-tree.

**trunks** : stems of trees.

**abounded** : were filled.