

**LITERATURE AND
ART BOOKS:
BOOK FOUR**

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Literature and Art Books: Book Four by B. Ellen Burke

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BOOK FOUR

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INTRODUCTION

To All to Whom it may Concern:

To place before the young a series of reading books that will contain noble and elevating thoughts, the best that has been enshrined in the literature of ages, is a task worthy of the wisest minds and of the grandest efforts. Whatever may be gleaned from the past that will contribute to the holy living of the present is, by right, the heritage of the young, the heirs and descendants of the long line of great and good who have gone to their reward.

A reading book is, or should be, a collection of the sayings and writings of the best men and noblest women. The young are asked "to think over again the thoughts of others"; they are asked to make those thoughts so much their own that they in turn will endeavor to aid in transmitting them to posterity. "Will this thought have a good effect on the soul of the reader?" "Will it inspire him to do better work, to have higher ideals, to develop his character more in accordance with the designs of the Creator?" These and other questions face the makers of reading books, and the test of the book's worth must be determined by its effect on the thoughts, words, and deeds of the readers.

BOOK FOUR OF THE BURKE LITERATURE AND ART

READERS contains a number of literary selections and copies of pictures which express thoughts that will foster patriotism and the love of good and noble deeds. By patriotism is meant love of our own land and loyalty to the best interests of our own country, wherever that land or that country may be.

The German "Fatherland" is dear to the heart of the Germans; the sons and daughters of France love their own land; sunny Italy is full of beauty to the eyes of the Italians; Ireland's lakes and streams, history and customs, are loved by all those of Irish blood; the "Stars and Stripes" make the hearts of Americans thrill with love and loyalty. We might mention Canada's "Maple Leaf" and the "Beaver." Scotland's "Thistle," and the regard which is felt for each nation by those who call the land by the endearing title "Home."

Love of God and Heaven is the highest and holiest emotion of the heart; but love of home and country follows closely in the wake of the thoughts and deeds that make us worthy children of Heaven and loyal subjects of our Lord and King.

To the Pupils:

IN BOOK FOUR OF THE BURKE LITERATURE AND ART READERS you will find a number of new words. Be sure that you learn their meaning and pronunciation. In many of the selections there are allusions to persons, places, and things, and to the literature that may be found in other books. You will need to learn the meaning of those allusions in order to understand and appreciate the thoughts contained in the articles you are reading. For example, when studying the first selection, "The Beggar at the Beautiful Gate," look up the exact location of Jerusalem and what is meant by the gates of a city. Learn when the miracle occurred which is mentioned in this selection, and in what book the record has been kept. How beautiful are the words which St. Peter said to the poor blind beggar, and how kind of the Apostles to notice the man who sat at the "Beautiful Gate."

In the poem, "The Ride of Collins Graves," by John Boyle O'Reilly, what is meant by risks of Sheridan and Paul Revere? What is meant by the expression,

"Who see
At their feet the gulf of Eternity?"

What is a "mill-stream," and what would widen a mill-stream? What is a "vale" and the "trend of the vale?"

Why is "The basin that nourished their happy homes" compared to a "demon?"

On page 112 begins the article, "Saint Catherine of Alexandria," by Eliza Allen Starr. In the first paragraph mention is made of "the Musæum" and the "Pharos." In the second paragraph we are told about the "god, Seraphis." Farther on we read of Socrates, Plato, and others.

To understand the charming account of Saint Catherine it will be necessary to understand the allusions. Miss Starr presents us first with a noble picture. What does she say about the sky, the Mediterranean Sea, the buildings? Notice how she reminds us of Saint Mark and by a few words suggests to us a series of pictures in the life of Saint Mark.

The two men walking, "side by side, the length of the noble portico," pleases us, puts life into the scene. Farther on we are told the names of those men, and also what they are saying.

By studying each selection with care and intelligence, you will learn to appreciate the beautiful messages the authors of the world have left for you. The understanding of one article will assist you in studying other articles.

Dr. Johnson, the English lexicographer, said: "The chief glory of every people arises from its authors." The chief work of reading is to learn about the glories of the past and how to use this information so as to make life broader, deeper, and holier.