

LESSON IV.

THE GOOD-NATURED LITTLE BOY.

un-guard-ed-ly	pro-vi-si-on	vic-tu-als
ne-ces-si-ty	re-main-ing	in-cli-na-ti-on
neigh-bour-hood	ex-pe-di-ti-on	sai-lor
fam-ish-ed	care-ful-ly	so-li-ta-ry

A little boy went out, one morning, to walk to a village about five miles from the place where he lived, and carried with him, in a basket, the provision that was to serve him the whole day. As he was walking along, a poor little half-starved dog came up to him, wagging his tail, and seeming to entreat him to take compassion on him. The little boy at first took no notice of him, but at length, remarking how lean and famished the creature seemed to be, he said, "This animal is certainly in very great necessity; if I give him part of my provision, I shall be obliged to go home hungry myself; however, as he seems to want it more than I do, he shall partake with me." Saying this, he gave part of what he had in the basket to the dog, who ate as if he had not tasted victuals for a fortnight.

The little boy then went on a little farther, his dog still following him, and fawning upon him with the greatest gratitude and affection; when he saw a poor old horse lying upon the ground, and groaning as if he was very ill: he went up to him, and saw that he was almost starved, and so weak that he was unable to rise. "I am very much afraid," said the little boy, "if I stay to assist this horse, that it will be dark before I can return: and I