

NORWEGIAN COLONIES IN GREEN- LAND.

FOURTH BOOK OF READING LESSONS.—PAGE 1.

Black Death, called in English history *Black plague*, and thus referred to by Collier:—"But the strife was now (1347) hushed before the breath of the Destroying Angel; for a terrible sickness, called the Black Plague, which had swept over Asia and the south of Europe, broke out in France and England. The London churchyards were soon filled; throughout the country the dead cattle lay rotting and poisoning the air; labor and trade stood still; the lower classes fell by hundreds in the day; the rich shut themselves in their solitary castles; wailing and desolation filled every city. Many evils followed the pestilence; nearly all the artizans and laborers had perished, for plague is always heaviest on the poor; those who had escaped, left the country. The crops were often allowed to moulder away for want of money to pay the exorbitant wages of the harvestmen, and the price of flour rose four-fold. A common feeling ascribed this disaster to the long toe-points and curled beards of the men, and to the masculine dress assumed by the belles of the day; and laws to curb extravagance in