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**CHAMBER'S**

MINOR EDUCATIONAL COURSE.

No. 5.

OUTLINES OF GEOGRAPHY.



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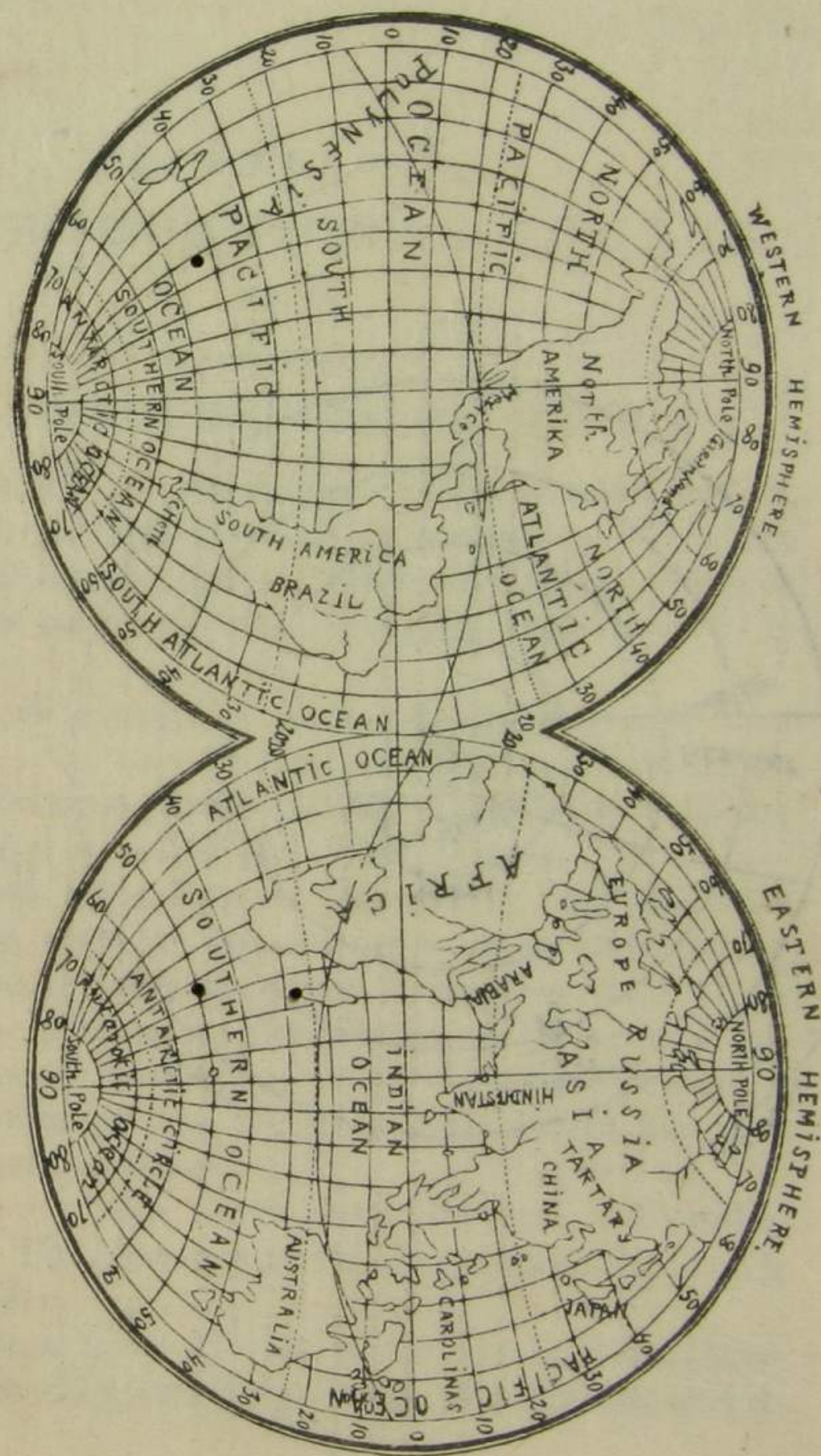


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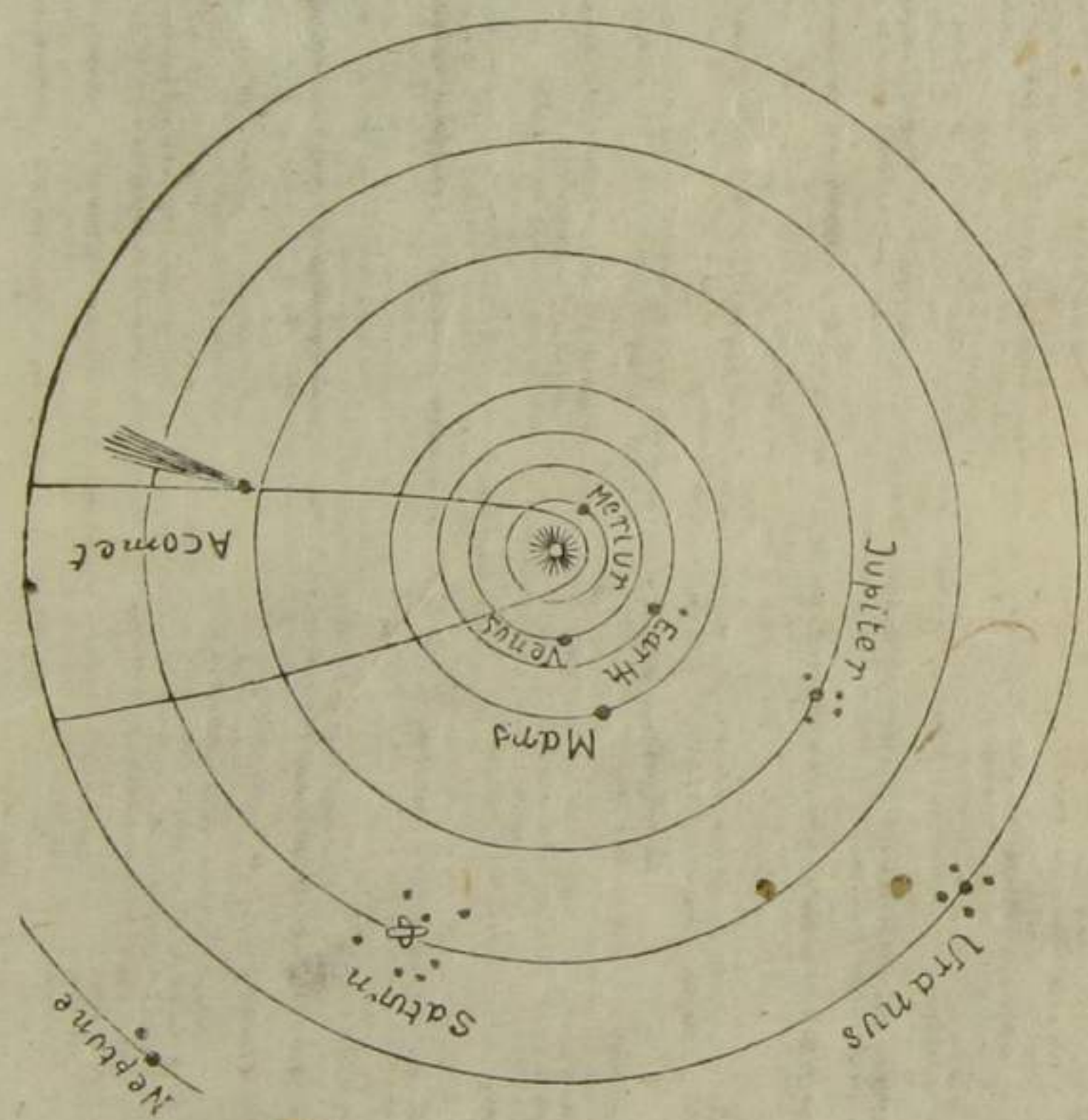


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OUTLINES OF GEOGRAPHY.

THE Earth which we inhabit is a globe of solid matter, about 25,000 miles in girth or circumference. It is one of a number of similar globes, commonly called *Planets*, which revolve round the Sun, deriving from that body light and heat.

The principal planets, in their order of distance from the Sun, are—Mercury, Venus, the Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. They form, with the Sun itself, what is called the *Solar System*.

The planets appear to us like stars; but the vast majority of the stars do not appear to us to move as the planets do, and are therefore said to be *fixed stars*.

In the same manner as the planets circle around the Sun, so do certain bodies called *Satellites* (*attendants*) move round some of the planets. The Earth has one satellite, called the Moon.

The distance of the Earth from the Sun is 95 millions of miles. The distance of the Moon from the Earth is 237,000 miles.

The Sun is a body of vast size—one million three hundred thousand times larger than the Earth; and it



is believed that each of the fixed stars, small though it seems, is a sun like ours, having its own system of planets revolving round it.

Besides the Sun, Moon, and Stars, there are other bodies in the heavens, called Comets. These also travel round the Sun, but in a very elliptical, or oval course. They are rarely seen, and, though remarkable in their appearance and motions, they do not exert any evil influence over the Earth.

The Earth and other planetary bodies, as well as the Sun, are round, in consequence of a tendency, which all matter has, when free to move, to draw towards a centre. Thus, a drop of dew, hanging from a blade of grass, takes the form of a small globe. Another effect of the same tendency is seen in the descent of a stone, which falls to the ground because it is drawn towards the centre of the Earth. As it is this attraction which makes anything feel *heavy*, it is called the attraction of gravitation (*making heavy*).

It is by the same principle that the Earth and the other planets are attracted towards the Sun; but they are prevented from getting any nearer to it than they are by a certain counteracting force. The Earth therefore remains suspended in the firmament, and, as we are told in the book of Job, 'hangs upon nothing.'

The Earth has two distinct kinds of motion. It goes round the Sun once in a year, and also revolves on its axis—that is, spins round like a top—once in 24 hours or one day.

By the revolution of the Earth round the Sun in the space of a year, are produced the Seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter; the degree of heat we receive being according to the situation of the Earth in relati-

on to the Sun.

In performing its daily revolution, the Earth turns from west to east. This turning towards the east, brings successively new portions of the surface within sight of the Sun, which thus appears to rise in the heavens, pass overhead at mid-day, and set at night. This, however, is only in appearance. It is the Earth which is really moving.

The Moon revolves round the Earth, from west to east, once in about 28 days. The light which we receive from the Moon is merely the light of the Sun thrown back or reflected from its surface.

When the Moon comes to that part of its course where it is between the Earth and the Sun, the Sun's light is then thrown on that side of the Moon which is turned away from us, and we do not see it at all. When the Moon is on the side of the Earth, opposite from that on which the Sun is, then we can see the whole of that side of it on which the Sun shines, and it appears a full moon.

The Earth is surrounded by the air, or atmosphere, a thin liquid which we breathe, and in which we live. The atmosphere is supposed to reach about forty-five miles above the Earth, and, though unfelt and invisible, it has a pressure, at the level of the sea, of about fourteen pounds on every square inch. The higher we rise from the level of the sea, this pressure becomes the less.

The atmosphere bears up the clouds which float above us. It is necessary also for the support of both animal and vegetable life.

The solid portion of the land consists of different kinds of rocks, earthy substances, and metals. The principal metals are gold, silver, iron, lead, copper, and tin. Gold is found in a pure state, but all other metals are



obtained by smelting the rocky material which is dug from mines.

The Globe has undergone many changes since its creation. Parts of its surface have been repeatedly raised above and sunk below the sea. Beds of sandstone, slate, and lime, which we now see on the dry land, were all formed as sediments in seas which once occupied their place. Great forests that were sunk under the waves, have been in like manner hardened into beds of coal.

Of the surface of the Globe, about two-thirds are covered with the waters of the Ocean; the remaining third being land. The ocean is salt, and never at rest: it is constantly agitated by tides and winds.

The *masses of land* are called continents, islands, peninsulas, capes, and isthmuses, according to their size and form. The *inequalities* on the Earth's surface are distinguished as mountains, valleys, and plains.

A *continent* is a very large extent of land. An *island* is a smaller portion of land, entirely surrounded by water. A *peninsula* is a tract of land almost surrounded by water.

A *cape*, or *promontory*, is the extremity of a tongue of land stretching into the sea. An *isthmus* is a narrow neck of land, connecting two larger portions.

A *mountain* is an elevated summit of the earth's surface.

A *valley* is the hollow between two mountains, or ranges of mountains. A *plain* is a tract of level land.

The *collections of water* are called oceans, seas, bays, gulfs, straits, rivers, and lakes.

An *ocean* is a very large mass of water. A *sea* is a smaller body of water than an ocean. A *bay* is a bend of

the sea into the land. A *gulf* is a part of the sea running far into the land. A *strait*, or *channel*, is a narrow passage of water connecting two seas.

A *river* is a stream of fresh water, running into a sea or lake. When the mouth of a river widens into an arm of the sea, it is called an *estuary*, or *firth*. A *lake* is a sheet of water surrounded by land.

### MAP OF THE WORLD.

A *map of the world* is usually in the form of two circles, called *hemispheres*—that is, half-spheres; each of which represents one half of the globe.

Towards the top of the map is *north*; towards the bottom is *south*; towards the right hand is *east*; and towards the left hand is *west*. The central point at the top of each hemisphere is called the *north pole*; and the point opposite it at the bottom is the *south pole*.

The line drawn from east to west across the middle of the map of the world is called the *equator*, because it is at an equal distance from the poles, and divides the map or globe into two equal parts.

The other lines drawn across the map, from east to west, are *parallels of latitude*. These are used to measure the distance of any place north or south from the equator.

The lines drawn from north to south are *meridians*. One of these is chosen and called the *first meridian*, and the others mark the distance of places east or west of this line. The meridian used in Britain as the first is that which passes through Greenwich.

Each of these lines or circles is divided into 360 equal parts, called *degrees*. A degree on the equator is equal to about  $69\frac{1}{2}$  English miles.

At the distance of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees north of the equator



is a line called the *Tropic of Cancer*; and at the same distance south of the equator is a line called the *Tropic of Capricorn*. The space between these lines is called the *Torrid Zone*, because the climate there is hotter than in other parts of the world.

At the distance of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees from the north pole is a line called the *Arctic Circle*; and at the same distance from the south pole is the *Antarctic Circle*. The spaces between these circles and the poles are called *Frigid Zones*, on account of the coldness of the climate these regions.

The spaces between the polar circles and the tropics are called *Temperate Zones*, because there the heat is not so great as in the *Torrid Zone*, nor the cold so great as in the *Frigid Zones*.

The whole extent of the Earth's surface is upwards of 196 millions of square miles. The population of the Earth is reckoned at 1000 millions of people.

#### CONTINENTS AND OCEANS.

There are five great divisions of land on the earth's surface—namely, *Europe*, *Asia*, *Africa*, lying near each other in the eastern hemisphere; *America*, North and South, in the western hemisphere; and *Oceania*, which lies partly in both, and consists of the great island of Australia and a number of smaller islands scattered over the Pacific Ocean.

There are five great oceans in the world—namely, the *Pacific Ocean*, lying between Asia and America; the *Atlantic Ocean*, having America on one side, and Europe and Africa on the other; the *Northern Ocean*, which lies round the north pole; the *Southern Ocean*, which lies round the south pole; the *Indian Ocean*, lying to the south of Asia.

#### EUROPE.

Europe lies to the west of Asia. It has the Arctic Ocean on the north, the Atlantic on the west, and the Mediterranean Sea on the south.

Europe is the smallest of the five great divisions of the Globe. It is, however, the most civilised and powerful, and in proportion to its size, the most populous of the five.

Nearly two-thirds of the surface of Europe consist of a vast plain which occupies the north-eastern part of the continent. Towards the centre and south, there are many high mountains, the principal of which are the Alps, the Apennines, and the Pyrenees. Some of the mountains of Europe are *volcanoes*, from which smoke and burning matter are often discharged. The principal mountains of this kind are Hecla, Vesuvius, and Etna.

There are several large rivers in Europe, most of which have their beginning in the Alps—such as the Rhine, the Rhône, and the Danube, which flow in different directions to the sea.

The coast of Europe is very much broken in upon by the sea, and there are, therefore, many large bays in it, and seas almost surrounded by the land. The principal of these are, the White Sea and Baltic Sea on the north, the Bay of Biscay on the west, and the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea on the south.

For the same reason there are in different parts of the coast large peninsulas, such as Sweden and Jutland in the north, and Spain, Italy, and the Morea in the south.

There are also on the coast of Europe several large and important islands, the principal of which are the British and Danish Isles in the north, and Sicily and the



adjacent islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

The extent of Europe is about 4 millions of square miles. The population is about 250 millions.

The whole population of Europe, except the Turks and the Jews, profess the Christian religion, either as Protestants, Roman Catholics, or Greek Catholics.

The trade of Europe extends to all parts of the world; and science, art, and manufactures have there reached greater perfection than in any other quarter of the globe.

The principal *countries* in Europe are the following:—British Islands; France; Spain; Portugal; Italy; Switzerland; Belgium; Holland; Austria; Prussia; Germany; Denmark; Sweden and Norway; Russia; Turkey; and Greece.

#### BRITISH ISLANDS.

The British Islands form one kingdom, under the name of *the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*. Formerly, there were several independent states in these islands, the principal of which were England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. These different states, though now united under one government, are still distinguished from each other by many peculiarities. The government of Britain is a limited monarchy under a Sovereign, a House of Lords, and a House of Commons.

#### ENGLAND AND WALES.

These occupy the southern and larger portion of the island of Great Britain. They measure in length about 400 miles, and in average breadth about 220 miles.

England is generally a *level country*, having some ranges of moderately high hills in the west and north, among which are several lakes, surrounded by beautiful

scenery. The greater part of Wales is mountainous.

The *rivers* in England are not of great size, but several of them are important on account of their shipping and commerce. The principal of these are—the Mersey, Severn, Thames, Humber, and Tyne.

The *climate* of England is temperate, but changeable. The soil, in the level districts, is very fertile, and produces large crops of grain and fruit.

The *mineral products* of England are various. Coal and iron are dug in the northern and central parts; while tin, copper, and lead are found in the south.

This mineral wealth has been turned to account in the manufacture of a great variety of articles, such as machines, hardware, and pottery. Other products of the country are put to use in making woollen and linen cloth, leather, ships, household furniture, &c. Silk and cotton, which are produced in other countries, are manufactured into cloth in Britain. Vast quantities of cloth and other articles made in Britain are exported to foreign countries.

The prevailing religion is Episcopalian Protestantism. Literature, science, and art, have reached a state of great perfection in England. The people generally are distinguished by energy and independence of spirit, honesty and frankness in their dealings, and great commercial enterprise.

England and Wales are divided into fifty-two counties or shires, containing a population of about 18 millions.

The capital of England is LONDON, the greatest commercial city in the world, and metropolis of the British empire.

Other towns of importance are: *Seaport towns*—Liverpool, Bristol, Southampton, Newcastle, and Hull.



*Naval stations*—Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham. *Manufacturing towns*—Manchester and Preston, with large cotton mills; Leeds, the principal seat of the woollen manufacture; Sheffield and Birmingham, famous for their hardware goods. *University towns*—Oxford and Cambridge. *Cathedral towns*—Canterbury, Winchester, York, Lichfield, and Carlisle.

## SCOTLAND.

Scotland is the northern portion of Great Britain, being divided from England by the river Tweed and the Cheviot Hills. Its greatest length is 280 miles, and its greatest breadth, 175. The north and west parts of Scotland, called the *Highlands*, are exceedingly mountainous and rugged. The southern portions, or the *Lowlands*, are more level. The highest mountain in Scotland is Ben Nevis, which is 4406 feet high. Among the mountains of Scotland there are many large and beautiful lakes, the largest of which is Loch Lomond. There are no large rivers in the country; but the Clyde, the Forth, and the Tay are of some importance, on account of their commerce.

The coast of Scotland is very much indented, especially on the west side, where there are many deep inlets and rocky promontories. Numerous islands also are formed along the coast, the principal of which are the Orkney and Shetland Isles on the north, and the Hebrides or Western Isles on the west.

The southern parts of Scotland produce coal and iron; manufactures are carried on to a large extent, and agriculture is practised with great skill and success.

The population of Scotland is about 3 millions. The Highlanders are descended from the ancient Celts, and

differ both in language and customs from the people in the Lowlands, who more nearly resemble the English in their habits. The people generally are remarkable for their shrewdness, caution, and perseverance; also for their patriotism and courage. The prevailing religion is Presbyterian Protestantism.

Scotland is divided into thirty-three counties. The principal city is EDINBURGH, which is famous for its university; next to it is *Glasgow*, one of the greatest commercial cities in Britain.

The other chief towns in Scotland are—

Perth, Dundee, and Paisley—manufacturing towns.

Aberdeen and St Andrews—seats of universities, the former also a large seaport.

Leith and Greenock—seaports.

Dumfries, Falkirk, Stirling, Montrose, Inverness, Wick—important market-towns.

## IRELAND.

Ireland is an island lying to the west of Great Britain. Its length is about 300 miles, and its breadth about 200.

The surface of Ireland is undulating and hilly, the principal chains of hills being in the west. The level land is generally fertile; but a considerable portion of it is covered with bog or morass.

Among the mountains of the south-west, there are several lakes remarkable for their picturesque scenery. There are also lakes of importance in various other parts of Ireland, some of which form a series along the course of the Shannon.

The largest river in Ireland is the Shannon; but there are several others of greater importance in a commercial



point of view, the estuaries of which, with the numerous bays that are formed in the coast, afford excellent harbour accommodation.

The population of Ireland is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  millions, most of whom are of Celtic origin, and attached to the Roman Catholic Church; the remainder are chiefly of Scotch and English descent, and adhere to the Protestant faith. The native Irish are remarkable for their sprightliness and wit.

Ireland is divided into four provinces and thirty-two counties.

The capital of Ireland is DUBLIN, which contains many beautiful public buildings.

Next in importance to Dublin are Belfast and Cork, both large seaports.

Other seaport towns are—Waterford, Limerick, Galway, Sligo, and Londonderry.

Important inland towns are—Kilkenny, Clonmel, Armagh, and Enniskillen.

Great Britain has important foreign possessions in North America, West Indian Islands, South America, Cape of Good Hope, India, Australia, and the islands of the Mediterranean Sea.

The entire population of the British Empire, at home and abroad, is about 120 millions.

#### F R A N C E.

France is separated from England on the north by the English Channel. It is in general a level country, though there are high mountains on its frontiers. It possesses an exceedingly fertile soil, and a mild climate.

In the central and southern parts, the vine is extensively cultivated, and wine forms an article of considera-

ble commerce. Trade and manufactures are pretty extensively carried on, the chief manufacture being silk, of which *Lyon* is the chief seat.

There are several large rivers in France, such as the Seine, the Loire, and the Rhône; and these, with numerous canals, afford great facilities for internal communication.

The people of France are remarkable for their vivacity and gaiety; they are also the most warlike people in Europe. Their number is about 36 millions.

France was formerly divided into thirty-three provinces; it is now divided into eighty-six departments. The capital of France is PARIS, remarkable for its beautiful palaces and other buildings.

Other large cities are—Lyon, Rouen, Lille, Strasburg—important manufacturing and commercial towns.

Marseille, Bordeaux, Rochelle, Havre, Dieppe, Boulogne, Calais—seaport towns.

Versailles, with a splendid palace. Brest, a naval station.

#### SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

Spain and Portugal are separated from France by the Pyrenees. They contain lofty ranges of mountains, and many large rivers. The soil is in some parts barren, and in others extremely fertile, but the country is wretchedly cultivated. Grapes, oranges, and other fruits are produced in abundance, and wine is exported in large quantities. The Spaniards are considered a grave and haughty people.

The chief towns in Spain are—MADRID, the capital, Saragossa, Salamanca, Toledo, Granada, and Saville, all in the interior.



Barcelona, Valencia, Cadiz, and Malaga, seaports.  
The chief cities in Portugal are—LISBON, the capital;  
Oporto, famous for its export of wine.

## I T A L Y.

Italy lies south of Switzerland and Austria, and is mainly enclosed by the waters of the Mediterranean Sea and its arm the Adriatic. It consists principally of a long, narrow peninsula, in shape like a boot, terminating on the south in two still narrower peninsular projections.

It has the lofty range of the Alps on the north, and is traversed through its whole length by the Apennines. The country is beautiful and fertile, and the climate is mild and delightful. It contains a population above 22 millions, who have been chiefly remarkable in modern times for the cultivation of the fine arts. In ancient times, it was the centre of the Roman Empire, which ruled all the known world.

Italy comprises the Kingdom of Italy, the Papal Dominions, and the republic of San Marino.

The Kingdom of Italy is a constitutional monarchy. The legislative power is vested in a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies: the members of the latter body are elected by the people. Victor Emanuel II., formerly King of Sardinia, is the present sovereign; he was proclaimed king in 1861. The Papal Dominions are governed by the Pope. San Marino is a republic.

## S W I T Z E R L A N D.

Switzerland lies to the north of Italy. It is a small country, with a rugged and mountainous surface, and somewhat severe climate. The country is traversed by the Alps, from which *avalanches*, or masses of snow, often descend, burying houses, and sometimes whole villages.

The Swiss are an industrious and frugal people, remarkable for their love of liberty. They carry on considerable manufactures, particularly of watches and fancy articles.

Switzerland is divided into twenty-two cantons, which are independent of each other.

The principal cities are—BERN, the capital; Zurich and Lucerne, cities of importance; Bâle, a commercial town; and Geneva, possessing some literary institutions.

## B E L G I U M.

Belgium is a small and generally level country, on the north-west of France. The soil is fertile, and highly cultivated, producing grain and fruits in abundance. Manufactures are pretty extensively carried on, both of cloths and hardware. The people of Belgium are cheerful and industrious: they number about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions.

The chief cities in Belgium are—BRUSSELS, the capital, one of the most elegant cities in Europe; Antwerp and Ostend, commercial cities; Ghent, Malines, and Liege.

## H O L L A N D.

Holland is a small country lying north-east from Belgium. It is low and flat, and is protected from the encroachments of the sea by dikes or embankments. The climate is damp, and the soil very productive. The people are known by the name of the Dutch, and are remarkable for their industry and honesty. Their number is nearly 3 millions.

The principal cities in Holland are—AMSTERDAM, the capital; the Hague, where the king resides; Rotterdam and Dort, seaports; Leyden and Utrecht, university towns.



## A U S T R I A.

Austria is a considerable territory in the centre of Europe, comprehending a number of states formerly independent of each other. The population is about 30 millions, and embraces many different races and languages. The Emperor of Austria is one of the most powerful sovereigns of Europe. One of the principal divisions of Austria is Hungary, formerly a separate kingdom, the people of which have of late made gallant though unsuccessful attempts to regain their independence.

The chief cities are—VIENNA, the capital; Prague, Buda, and Triest.

## P R U S S I A.

The kingdom of Prussia occupies nearly the central point of Europe. Until 1866 it was divided into many detached portions, the principal sections being Eastern Prussia and Rhenish Prussia; but in that year, by the incorporation of the kingdom of Hanover, the Hessian principalities, Nassau, and other States, the territory of the kingdom was made continuous from its eastern border to its western. Area, 133,000 square miles,—a little more than that of the States of Kansas and Iowa.

Prussia is remarkable for its large military force and its national system of education. Its population is about 23 millions.

The principal cities are—BERLIN, the capital; Danzig, a seaport on the Baltic; Breslau, Königsberg, and Cologne.

## G E R M A N Y.

Germany is a large country, including about forty states, independent of each other, but which unite in a diet

or confederation for general purposes. The most important of these form part of the Austrian and Prussian dominions; other parts belong to Denmark and Holland; and the remainder are governed by princes of their own. The whole population of Germany is about 35 millions. They are characterised by their sincerity of character, diligence in study, and skill in music. The art of printing was first invented in Germany.

The principal cities are—Hanover, Dresden, Stuttgart, Munich, all capitals of important states; Hamburg, Frankfort, Bremen, and Lubeck. *free* or independent towns—each of which is entitled to send a representative to the diet; Leipsic, a commercial town of importance.

## D E N M A R K.

Denmark is a small country north from Germany, comprising the peninsula of Jutland and several islands in the Baltic Sea, and containing a population of about 2 millions. It once possessed great power at sea, and it still retains some important foreign possessions.

The principal towns are—COPENHAGEN, the capital, on an island in the Baltic; Altona and Elsinore, commercial towns.

## S W E D E N A N D N O R W A Y.

Sweden and Norway, forming a large peninsula in the north of Europe, were formerly distinct states, but are now united under one monarch. The country abounds in rocky mountains, forests, and lakes. There are rich copper and iron mines in Sweden; and timber and fish are largely exported from Norway.

The principal cities are—STOCKHOLM, the capital of Sweden; and CHRISTIANIA, the capital of Norway.



## RUSSIA.

Russia is a very large country, with a generally level surface, and containing extensive sandy plains, called *steppes*. The climate is cold, and the northern parts are all covered with snow during winter. The population is about 60 millions, very many of whom are serfs or slaves to the proprietors of the land. There are rich mines in the Ural Mountains on the north-east. Large quantities of tallow, hemp, tar, and other articles, are imported into Great Britain from Russia.

The chief cities are—St PETERSBURG, the capital; Moscow, the ancient capital; Warsaw, formerly the capital of Poland; Riga, Archangel, and Odessa, important seaports.

## TURKEY.

Turkey is a considerable country on the south of Russia. It is crossed by ranges of mountains, and is watered by the Danube and its tributaries. The soil is generally fertile. The people are chiefly Mohammedans, and of an indolent disposition, so that agriculture and commerce are greatly neglected. The Sultan, or Emperor, has also extensive dominions in Asia.

The principal cities are—CONSTANTINOPLE, the capital; Belgrade and Silistria, fortified towns on the Danube; Salonica, Bucharest, and Adrianople.

## GREECE.

Greece is a small country south from Turkey, beautifully diversified with hills and valleys. In ancient history it occupied, for a time; the first place in war, philosophy, and art. After many centuries of dependence and obscurity, it again became an independent kingdom in 1830.

The chief towns are—ATHENS, the capital; Tripolitza, Thebes, and Corinth.

## ASIA.

Asia is the largest of the five great divisions of the Earth. It adjoins Europe on the west, and is connected with Africa by the Isthmus of Suez.

The centre of this continent forms a large plateau, which is in general as high as the highest mountains in Europe. On each side of this plateau are high mountain-ranges, the most remarkable of which are the Himalya Mountains on the south, which are the highest in the world.

From these mountain ranges there flow down on every side large rivers—such as the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Indus.

There are deep bays and large peninsulas on the coast of Asia. It is also studded with numerous large and fertile islands, especially on the south and east.

There is every variety of climate in Asia; but cold prevails over a great part of it. There are immense tracts of barren land in it; but it also contains some of the most fertile spots in the world. Most of the grain, fruit-trees, and flowers, as well as domestic animals common among us, came originally from Asia.

The inhabitants of Asia number nearly 600 millions, who are for the most part either wholly savage or only half civilised. It was in the western parts of Asia that the human race was first planted.

The principal countries in Asia are—Asiatic Turkey; Arabia; Persia; Tataria; Asiatic Russia; Afghanistan;



Hindustan; Eastern Peninsula or Chin-India; China; and Japan.

TURKEY IN ASIA is the most westerly part of Asia. It includes several regions formerly under distinct powers, some of which are distinguished both in the Bible and in ancient history. The principal divisions are—*Asia Minor*, subdivided into several smaller provinces, the chief town in which is Smyrna. The seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation were planted in this province.

*Syria*, including Palestine, was the scene of most of the events in Scripture history—chief towns, Aleppo, Damascus, and Jerusalem.

*Algezirah*, formerly Mesopotamia; chief town, Mosul.

*Irak Arabi*, formerly Chaldea, where Babylon was situated; chief town, Bagdad.

*Kurdistan*, containing the site of ancient Nineveh.

*Armenia*, in which Mount Ararat is situated.

ARABIA is a large peninsula in the south-west of Asia. The districts which border on the sea are beautiful and fertile, bearing aloes, myrrh, frankincense, and coffee, but the interior is a high table-land, covered with sandy deserts and rocks. The people are chiefly herdsmen and husbandmen; but some of the tribes practise robbery also. Their habits and manners are generally primitive and simple, and their religion is that of Mohammed. Arabia is celebrated for a breed of horses remarkable for their beauty and fleetness. It also possesses the camel, an animal of great use in carrying burdens across the deserts.

The principal towns in Arabia are—MECCA, the birthplace of Mohammed; Medina, where he was buried;

Jiddah, Mocha, Muscat, and Aden—seaport towns of importance.

PERSIA is an extensive country to the east of Turkey in Asia. It contains extensive tracts of high and barren land, and few rivers of importance; but those parts which are fruitful yield large quantities of grain, rice, senna, rhubarb, and silk. The people are divided into several tribes, and are occupied to some extent in the manufacture of ornamental gold-work and sword-blades. Persia was formerly a powerful empire, but it is now comparatively weak.

The chief towns are—TEHERAN, the capital; Ispahan, the former capital; and Shiraz, remarkable for its wine.

TATARY is the name generally given to the whole of the central region of Asia. It contains vast desert plains, called *steppes*, and is chiefly inhabited by tribes who lead a wandering life under chiefs or *khans*. The Turks who now inhabit Turkey came originally from *Turkestan*, a province of Tatar. Other divisions of importance are—*Tibet*, *Mongolia*, and *Manchooria*. The principal towns are Bokhara and Samarcand.

ASIATIC RUSSIA is an extensive territory of small importance, occupying the north and west of Asia. The northern portion, or *Siberia*, is a cold and barren region, containing a very thin population, and is used as a place of banishment for Russian criminals. The principal town is Tobolsk. The western portion, consisting chiefly of the *Caucasian provinces*, is a mountainous region inhabited by a hardy race, who yield only a forced allegiance to the Russian Emperor.

AFGHANISTAN, or *Cabool*, including *Bloochistan*, lies between Persia and India. It is inhabited by a warlike



population of about 5 millions, who are governed by a hereditary king. Cabool, Candahar, and Herat, are large and important towns.

HINDOSTAN, or *India*, is a large peninsula in the south of Asia, divided into several states, and containing a population of about 140 millions. The climate is extremely warm, and the soil rich, producing grain, cotton, indigo, and other products. The Hindoos are in some respects a cultivated people, and manufacture rich silks, shawls, muslin, and porcelain. Their religion is principally Brahminism and Buddhism.

A large portion of India is under British rule—exercised through the East India Company—and is divided into the three *presidencies* of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay; the principal cities in which are—Calcutta, the chief city in India; Madras, and Bombay. There are also a number of tributary states, which though governed nominally by their own princes, are entirely dependent on British power. Besides these, are one or two states still independent of British rule, and a few minor settlements belonging to other European nations; the French possessing small detached districts on the east coast, and the Portuguese the district of Goa. Delhi, Cashmere, and Lucknow are other cities of consequence.

The Island of Ceylon, to the south of India, is also a British possession, not subject to the East India Company. It has a cooler and more salubrious climate than India, and produces cinnamon, cocoa-nuts, and other tropical fruits. The pearl-fisheries at Ceylon have long been celebrated. The principal town is Colombo.

EASTERN PENINSULA, or *Chin-India*, lies to the south of China, and contains a number of distinct states, of which the chief are Burmah and Siam. The principal

towns are—Ava, Bangkok, and Cambodia. British influence has of late been much increased among these states, and considerable territories have been acquired.

CHINA is an extensive country in the east of Asia. It is in general level and well cultivated, producing cotton, indigo, tea, sugar, rice, and grain. China is a densely peopled country, and the inhabitants are industrious and ingenious, but cowardly and dishonest. The upper classes are in some degree learned and refined. The emperor claims to be descended from the sun and moon, and his kingdom is styled the Celestial Empire. Foreigners are carefully excluded from the country, being allowed access only to five ports for the purpose of trade. The British have of late formed a settlement at Hong Kong, a small island on the south, where the merchants live. The principal export is tea.

The chief cities are—PEKING, the capital; Nanking, a large manufacturing town; Canton, the principal seaport; Ningpo; and Amoy.

There are two large dependencies belonging to China, named *Tibet* and *Chinese Tataria*. Tibet is an extensive elevated country west from China Proper, abounding in flocks and herds. Chinese Tataria, on the north, is a vast territory, composed chiefly of sandy deserts and rocks. It is separated from China by a wall several hundred miles long, which was originally built to protect China from tribes of roving Tatars on the north.

JAPAN is an insular empire on the northeastern coast of Asia, comprising the islands *Nippon*, *Yozo*, *Kiusiu*, and *Sikoku*, with some smaller groups. *Nippon* is the largest island. Area of all the JAPAN islands, estimated at 260,000 square miles. The climate is mild and salubrious. The people are like the Chinese,



they are active, intelligent, and well informed as to foreign affairs. Population, about 35, millions.

The principal cities are—*Tokio*, the capital, *Saikio* and *Osaka* large important towns, *Yokohama*, *Nagasaki*, *Hakodate*, and *Niegata* commercial seaports.

THE EAST INDIAN ISLANDS lie chiefly to the south and east of the Eastern Peninsula. The largest are—*Sumatra*, *Java*, *Borneo*, *Celebes*, *Mindanao*, and *Luzon*. They are generally mountainous, and extremely productive. The chief towns are—*Borneo*, in the island of Borneo; *Achen* and *Bencoolen*, in Sumatra; *Batavia*, in Java; *Manilla*, in Luzon.

#### A F R I C A.

Africa is a very large peninsula, connected with Asia by the Isthmus of Suez, and separated from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea. Little is known of Africa beyond the parts which border on the sea. In the central parts, there are vast sandy deserts, which could not be crossed, but for occasional springs which afford refreshment to the traveller. There are high mountain-ranges, but few rivers of considerable size.

The climate is excessively warm, and the soil generally arid, but where it is watered in any degree, it is abundantly fruitful. Africa produces a great variety of beautiful flowers and delicious fruits. It also contains a great variety of animals, such as lions, panthers, giraffes, apes, and camels. The camel is very useful as a beast of burden, and is peculiarly fitted for travelling in the desert. There are numerous troublesome insects among the shafts and sands of Africa. The inhabitants are supposed to number about 70 millions.

Africa is generally divided into Northern, Eastern, Southern, and Western Africa.

The countries of NORTHERN AFRICA are those best known to Europeans. The principal are as follows:

*Egypt* consists of a long narrow strip of land, forming the valley of the Nile. The northern part of the valley opens up, and the river branches off into different streams, so as to form a triangular space, called the Delta. The Nile overflows its banks once a year, and the mud which it then deposits forms a highly productive soil. Learning and art existed in Egypt about 4,000 years ago, and there remain many monuments of its ancient greatness, such as pyramids, temples, and sculptured figures; but for many centuries it has occupied a very low place in civilisation and commerce. The principal towns in Egypt are—*Cairo*, the capital; and *Alexandria*, a commercial city of great importance, situated on the Mediterranean.

*Nubia* lies to the south of Egypt, and consists chiefly of the upper part of the valley of the Nile. It is inhabited by numerous tribes of black people, who live a wandering life.

*Abyssinia*, south from Nubia, is a more mountainous region, and is visited periodically with very heavy rains. The people profess the Christian religion in a rude form, but are very barbarous in their manners. The chief town is *Axum*.

*The Barbary States*.—These are *Barca*, *Tripoli*, *Tunis*, *Algiers*, and *Marocco*, which form a beautiful tract of country, productive of the best grain and fruit, and remarkable for its fine breed of horses. The population in these states is small, owing to a long course of Turkish oppression. There are several seaport towns



of importance, such as Tripoli, Tunis, and Algiers.

WESTERN AFRICA includes a number of semi-barbarous states along the coast, which are visited by Europeans principally for gold, ivory, and slaves. At Sierra Leone and Liberia, there have been settlements formed with a view to the introduction of Christianity and civilisation into these regions. The principal divisions along the coast are—*Senegambia*, *Guinea*, *Biafra*, *Loango*, *Congo*, and *Benguela*; but these are subdivided into a number of petty kingdoms. Between Northern and Western Africa there is a vast region, a large proportion of which is desert, and inhabited by roving tribes of great ferocity. The two principal tracts in this region are—*Sahara*, or the *Great Desert*, and *Soodan*, or *Nigritia*. The latter contains one town of some importance, named Timbuctoo.

SOUTHERN AFRICA contains the country of the *Hottentots*, a very degraded race of people; *Caffraria*, or the country of the *Caffres*, a barbarous but hardy and warlike people, who have frequently of late given much trouble to the English colonists in their neighbourhood; and *Cape Colony*, a considerable tract of country, settled by Dutch and English residents, and containing one flourishing town, named *Cape Town*, which is the residence of the governor. Another British settlement has been lately formed, further to the north, named *Natal* or *Victoria*.

EASTERN AFRICA includes several countries inhabited by barbarous tribes, of whom little is known. The Portuguese have made several settlements along this coast for commercial purposes.

In various parts of Africa, are found the lion and other beasts of prey.

ISLANDS ON THE COAST OF AFRICA.—There are several islands connected with Africa, the largest of which is *Madagascar*, on the east coast, inhabited by a mixed race, among whom Christianity has of late made some progress. *Mauritius*, further eastward, belongs to Britain, and produces valuable timber and fruits. *St. Helena*, on the west side of Africa, is famed as the place where Napoleon was confined for the last six years of his life, and where he died. The *Cape Verd Islands* and *Canary Islands*—also on the west coast—are of some importance, especially the latter, which are famed for their wines, fruits, and canary birds. The *Madeira Islands* and *Azores*, further north, are remarkable for their fine climate and rich soil.

#### A M E R I C A .

America first became known to Europeans about the end of the fifteenth century, through the discoveries of Christopher Columbus, Sebastian Cabot, and Amerigo Vespucci, from the last of whom the continent was named. It was found to be inhabited by various nations, some of whom had reached a state of partial civilisation, particularly the *Mexicans* and *Peruvians*, who had regular forms of government, and had cultivated some of the arts. Those portions of America which were first discovered were immediately taken possession of by various European nations, particularly the English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The English settlements were principally to the north of the Gulf of Mexico. The Spaniards settled down in the central and western parts of the continent, and Brazil was occupied by the Portuguese.



America consists of two great continents, which are connected by a long narrow isthmus. It is thus divided into North and South America.

## NORTH AMERICA.

North America is about 4,500 miles in length, and about 2,500 in average breadth. There are in North America high ranges of mountains, large rivers, and lakes of very great extent. The climate is much colder than that of Europe. The original inhabitants of North America, or Red Indians, a savage and warlike race, have been gradually displaced by the encroachments of the white men, and there are now comparatively only a few remaining who have retired to the prairies and mountains of the far west.

The principal countries in North America are—The British Possessions; United States; Mexico; and Guatimala.

THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS occupy the northern half of North America, except a small portion on the north west belonging to Russia; they include Canada, New-Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland; besides a considerable tract of cold and sterile land, still inhabited by roving tribes, and used by the British only for the purpose of collecting furs and skins.

*Canada* is an extensive country, lying partly to the south, but chiefly to the north of the river St. Lawrence. it possesses no high mountains, and, with the exception of the St. Lawrence, no large rivers; but the great lakes on its southern frontier form the most remarkable collections of fresh water in the world. These lakes are Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, and along with

canals and rivers afford ample means of communication, and give facilities for the transport of timber and other articles of commerce.

The climate is subject to extremes of heat and cold, and the change from the one to the other is much more sudden than in Great Britain; but it is on the whole pleasant and healthy. The soil is extremely fertile, and where it is cleared of timber, yields rich crops of grain. When first colonised by Europeans, Canada was one unbroken forest, and much of the country is still covered with large forest trees, which require to be cut down to allow space for cultivation. The timber thus cut down forms one of the principal articles of commerce, and is largely exported to Great Britain. Fish and furs are also exported in large quantities.

Canada, till lately, was divided into two provinces, named Upper and Lower Canada, or, as they are now called, Canada West and Canada East, each of which had a separate legislature, but both are now united under one government, similar to the British. The principal towns are—in Canada West, Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, and London; in Canada East, Quebec and Montreal. The total population of Canada is upwards of a million and a half, and it is rapidly increasing, aided by emigration from Britain.

In Canada, all classes of industrious persons find good employment and advantageous places for settlement.

*New Brunswick* is situated to the east of Lower Canada. It was at one time included in the government of Nova Scotia, but since the year 1784 it has been a distinct British colony. It is a densely wooded country, and its timber is exported in large quantities. The principal towns are—St John and Fredericton; the



latter of which is the seat of government.

*Nova Scotia* is a peninsula situated eastward from New Brunswick. It is a rich and fertile country forming, along with Cape Breton, or Breton Island, one of the most valuable dependencies of the British Empire. It is possessed of considerable mineral wealth; coal, in particular, is extensively worked, and exported to the United States. The climate and soil are favourable to the production of grain, vegetables, and fruit similar to those of England, which are grown in considerable quantities, and for which a ready outlet can easily be found, as no part of the interior is more than thirty miles distant from navigable water. The principal exports are—fish, timber, oil, coal, and plaster of Paris. The inhabitants of Nova Scotia are a mixed race of various origin, but chiefly English and Scotch; they form an intelligent and well-conducted community. The chief town in Nova Scotia is Halifax, a city of rising importance. Other towns of some note are—Pictou, Yarmouth, and Liverpool.

*Prince Edward Island* is a fertile island north of Nova Scotia. Its principal wealth is in timber and fish. The capital is Charlotte-town.

*Newfoundland* is a large island east of Labrador, which is included in the same government with it. It is damp and foggy, with little fertility; but it is celebrated for its *cod-fisheries*. The principal town is St John's.

To the north and north-west of Canada there are vast tracts of land, chiefly inhabited by tribes of native Indians, who trade with British agents in furs and skins. These districts are called the *Hudson's Bay Territories*, because the Hudson's Bay Company enjoys a monopoly of the trade carried on in them.

The *Arctic Regions*, lying still further to the north, chiefly consist of a number of islands in the Arctic Ocean, which belong to Britain by right of discovery, but are of no use for the purposes of settlement or trade.

*Greenland* was at one time settled by Danish colonies from Iceland, but it contains now only a few tribes of Esquimaux.

THE UNITED STATES of America comprises that portion of North America lying between the British possessions on the north and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west, together with the New Territory in the north-west part of North America. This region is divided by the Alleghany Mountains and the Rocky Mountains into three sections—namely, the slope towards the Atlantic on the east, which was the district first colonised, and which now supports a large and prosperous commercial population; the immense valley of the Mississippi in the centre, which contains vast natural forests and prairies, and is but thinly peopled; and the Pacific region on the west, which has lately become of considerable note on account of the gold discoveries in California. There are, on the eastern slope, numerous streams and inlets of the sea, which afford great facilities for commerce and shipping. The two great rivers of the centre region, the Mississippi and Missouri, with their tributaries, are all navigable for hundreds of miles, forming useful channels for internal communication. The only streams of note on the west coast are the Oregon and the Colorado.

The climate of the United States is in general subject to much greater extremes of heat and cold than that of Europe. The soil is fertile, and yields, besides the ordi-



nary productions of Europe, sugar, tobacco, cotton, and rice. The birds peculiar to the country are noted for their beautiful plumage. The most remarkable animal is the bison or buffalo, which roams in great herds over the western prairies.

The form of government adopted in the United States is that of a republic. The States are thirty-seven in number, and are all independent of each other; but they unite for general purposes. Thirteen of these states were originally British colonies; but towards the end of last century they asserted and gained their independence, and have since then vastly increased both in extent of territory and in influence.

The commerce of the United States, next to that of Great Britain, is the most extensive in the world. The principal exports are cotton, tobacco, sugar, and indigo. There is no established religion in the States, but protestantism in different forms prevails over the greater part of them. The population is about 23 millions of free people, who are for the most part descendants of British settlers, though with a large admixture of other colonists; and about 3 millions of slaves. The people are remarkable for their acuteness and activity.

The principal cities are—WASHINGTON, the capital, the residence of the president, or head of the republic; New York and Boston, large commercial cities; Philadelphia, a refined city, with considerable literary institutions; Cincinnati and New Orleans, inland commercial towns.

MEXICO is a rich country, south-west from the United States. It was a province of Spain till 1819, when it gained its independence, and it is now a separate republic. The inhabitants are a mixture of Spanish settlers with the original tribes. Its vegetable productions are various

and valuable; and it is celebrated for its mines of gold and silver. The chief town is Mexico.

GUATIMALA is a rich and fertile country, with a warm climate and picturesque scenery. It was formerly a province of Spain, but is now an independent republic. The chief town is Guatimala.

### SOUTH AMERICA.

The leading natural features of South America are towering ranges of mountains and gigantic rivers, and it is also distinguished by the richness and variety of its vegetable productions. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Portuguese established colonies on the east side of the continent, and the Spanish on the west; but most of these have now become independent states.

The principal countries are—Colombia; Peru; Bolivia; Chili; United Provinces; Brazil; Guiana; and Patagonia.

COLOMBIA, a republic formed of two or three Spanish provinces, is a fertile country in the north-west of South America. It produces cacao, tobacco, cotton, and various fruits. Several high mountains in the chain of the Andes, some of which are volcanoes, are situated in Colombia. The population is mixed, and numbers about 2 millions. The chief towns are Santa Fe de Bogota and Quito.

PERU, situated to the south of Colombia, is remarkable for its gold and silver mines. It is traversed by the Andes chain, which separates a narrow and unhealthy strip of land on the coast from the vast plains of



the interior. The principal vegetable productions are cotton, sugar, and Peruvian bark. The chief cities are—Lima, the capital, situated in a beautiful valley; and Cuzco, the ancient capital before the Spanish invasion.

BOLIVIA, formerly called Upper Peru, is similar in its productions to Peru. It is famous for its silver mines, which are the richest in the world. Chief town Chuquisaca or La Plata.

CHILI is a narrow strip of land between the Andes and the Pacific. It is one of the most beautiful and fertile countries in the world; but contains several volcanoes, and is subject to earthquakes. It possesses rich mines of gold, silver, and other metals, and produces a great variety of grain and fruits. The chief cities are—Santiago, the capital; and Valparaiso, the principal commercial town.

THE UNITED PROVINCES include the countries of La Plata, Paraguay, and the Banda Oriental in one independent republic. These countries are very fertile, but ill cultivated. There are vast herds of cattle fed on the *pampas* or plains, which are covered with long coarse grass. These the people hunt on horseback, and capture by means of the *lasso*—a noose at the end of a long rope. The principal towns are Buenos Ayres and Monte Vido—both commercial towns.

BRAZIL is the largest of the South American states. It is a fertile and beautiful country, producing in abundance mahogany, rosewood, and other valuable timber. Brazil is an independent kingdom, and its monarch, styled emperor, is the lineal descendant of the royal family of Portugal. The principal towns are Rio de Janeiro and San Salvador Bahia, both thriving commercial towns.

GUIANA is a small and fertile tract of country, divided into three settlements, respectively belonging to the British, French and Dutch. It produces cotton, sugar, coffee, and cocoa. The chief towns are—George Town, or Demerara, in British Guiana; and Cayenne, in French Guiana.

PATAGONIA occupies the southern portion of the American continent. It has a considerable diversity of climate and soil, and is inhabited by a number of savage tribes, some of whom are remarkable for their great stature.

THE WEST INDIAN ISLANDS are a large series, extending from the coast of Florida to that of Guiana and usually considered as forming two groups—the Antilles and the Bahamas. They were first discovered by Columbus in 1492. The climate is tropical, and the productions are rich and varied, large quantities of sugar, coffee, and cotton being yearly raised for exportation. *Cuba*, the largest, and *Porto Rico*, belong to Spain. *Hayti* is an independent negro republic. The most important of those belonging to Britain are—*Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, *Antigua*, *Trinidad*, and the *Bahamas*. Spanish Town, Kingston, and Port Royal, are important towns in Jamaica.

Slavery still exists in the Spanish possessions, into which a large number of negroes are annually brought from Africa. In the British colonies, slavery was abolished in 1838. The free negroes and coloured people now form a large proportion of the inhabitants of these colonies; and since the introduction of Christian missionaries a few years ago, there has been a considerable improvement in their intelligence and general condition.



## OCEANIA.

This name is given to a fifth division of the globe, comprising Australia and the groups of islands which lie south of Asia, and with which the Pacific is studded.

AUSTRALIA.—By far the most important of these is the large island of *Australia*, which lies south-east from Asia. The surface of this island, which on account of its size might be termed a continent, has been only partially explored, and comparatively little is known of the interior; but on the southern side of it, various settlements have been made by the British, which have lately grown into much importance. The principal of these are—*New South Wales*, of which the chief town is Sydney, now a large and flourishing city; *Victoria*, the principal town in which is Melbourne; *South Australia*, the capital of which is Adelaide; and *Western Australia*, or *Swan River Settlement*. The climate generally is remarkable for its mildness and salubrity, and the soil is adapted for every species of grain; but hitherto the sheep pastures have formed the principal wealth of the colonists. Commercial enterprise and adventure have of late received a great stimulus from the discovery of gold in various districts of the Australian colonies.

Next in importance to Australia are—*Tasmania*, formerly called Van Diemen's Land, a fertile island, also a British settlement; and *New Zealand*, a small group of islands, rising in importance as a British colony. The British colonies in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand (as in the case of Canada), offer a boundless field for emigration; all who are active, honest, and industrious, being well employed and put in the way

of attaining a respectable position in society.

Besides Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, there are in the division of Oceania, the island of New Guinea; and the small surrounding islands, Sumatra, Java, the Bandas and Moluccas, Borneo, and Celebes. The principal groups in the Pacific, to which the general name of *Polynesia* is often applied, are—the Pelew Islands, the Ladrões, Carolines, Sandwich Islands, Marquesas, Society Islands, Friendly Islands, and Navigator's Islands.

Most of these islands are salubrious in their climate, and extremely rich in their productions. The original inhabitants are naturally barbarous and fierce; but the knowledge of Christianity and civilisation has lately been taught among many of them, and a considerable improvement has taken place in consequence. In Australia there are some remarkable animals; one of them, the kangaroo, carries its young in a pouch.

THE END

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