

**LECTURES ON GEOGRAPHY
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DURING THE LENT TERM 1888**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649628339

Lectures on Geography Delivered before the University of Cambridge during the Lent Term
1888 by R. Strachey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.


Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

R. STRACHEY

**LECTURES ON GEOGRAPHY
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DURING THE LENT TERM 1888**



LECTURES ON GEOGRAPHY

30378

LECTURES
ON
GEOGRAPHY

DELIVERED
BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DURING THE LENT TERM 1888

BY
LIEUT.-GEN. R. STRACHEY, R.E., C.S.I.
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

London
MACMILLAN AND CO.
AND NEW YORK
1888

All rights reserved

LECTURES ON GEOGRAPHY

LECTURE I

Introduction—Proper scope of geographical teaching—Proposed treatment of the subject—Sketch of the growth of knowledge of the form, movements, and magnitude of the earth—Of the construction of maps and the art of navigation.

WHEN the University of Cambridge resolved in June last to accept the proposal of the Royal Geographical Society to provide a lecturer on geography with the aid of funds to be supplied by that Society, a wish was expressed that the appointment should be postponed until the next year; and that the Council of the Society should endeavour to arrange in the interval for the delivery of

introductory lectures, illustrative of the general character and scope of the instruction in geography suitable for a University course, which it would in future be the duty of the lecturer to impart.

It is by desire of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society that I have undertaken to give effect to this wish of the University authorities.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that I should direct attention to the subjects with which instruction in geography should deal, rather than to the form in which it should be imparted. I can profess no personal experience qualifying me as a teacher, nor do I think that any useful end would be gained by my offering suggestions as to the method of teaching geography most suitable for students at the University. I cannot doubt that it should be left to the lecturer to select the particular

methods which best satisfy himself, and appear to him most appropriate in relation to the general course of instruction pursued at the University.

That the study of geography should have been recognised by our two great Universities, for the first time in the past year, as deserving a place among the subjects which they undertake to teach, no less than my own presence here for the purpose already stated, are sufficient indications that there have hitherto been no very precise notions of the position of geography as a branch of knowledge susceptible of scientific treatment, nor indeed as to its deserving any special attention apart from its utility in supplying various branches of study with topographical facts. Hence the view of the matter which I shall place before you must be understood as representing only my own personal opinions, though I have every

reason to think that, in substance, the same opinions are held by all those, both in this country and elsewhere, best qualified to be your guides.

Geography has till a comparatively short time ago been commonly viewed rather in the light of its practical value in supplying maps of the world, and of the interest that attaches to the exploration of unknown countries, than in relation to other branches of knowledge, or to the general body of physical science. The more obvious facts for geographical observation are such as strike the least instructed, and the first steps were taken by those who had necessarily little appreciation of the true significance of much that they saw, and were incapable of doing more than collect, and that very imperfectly, the materials which their successors are bringing into a scientific