

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL
READING BOOK; BEING A
SERIES OF INDUCTIVE
LESSONS IN GEOGRAPHY**

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The Geographical Reading Book; Being a Series of Inductive Lessons in Geography by Thomas Crampton & Thomas Turner

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THOMAS CRAMPTON & THOMAS TURNER

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INDUCTIVE LESSONS IN GEOGRAPHY.

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PREFACE.



GEOGRAPHY has now become so common a part of elementary education, that no apology is needed for any attempt to improve the means whereby it may be taught. In many cases the teaching of Geography consists of little more than a dry iteration of names and glancing at maps. And when a more extended course is attempted, it is too often taught dogmatically, and without the natural connection of cause and effect. Thus, the memory only is taxed, while no exercise whatever is given to the reasoning faculties.

The important field of *Physical Geography*, though admirably explored, is almost a barren waste to the majority of pupils in Elementary Schools. Many children who can name the rivers of Syria or the bays of Norway, are ignorant of the common philosophy of a river or the nature and utility of a bay.

Yet these pupils only need to be taught *how*, and it will be found that they *can reason* well enough; and there is no subject on which the reasoning powers can be more profitably as well as more pleasantly employed than on Geography: for in it we may find the pleasures of demonstration without the fatigue of abstraction.

The following pages have been prepared with a view to remedy the above defects; to help beginners in Geography to *observe*, to *compare*, and to *reason generally* on the leading facts and principles of Geography. To the ordinary Text Books on the subject, we trust our little book will be found a necessary preliminary.

We have adopted the form and style of READING LESSONS, from a conviction of the suitability of the subject for such a purpose. We believe that the art of reading is most readily acquired when the general intelligence of the pupil is awakened and sustained by the *subject matter* of the lessons read. Now, we think that *Geography*, by the vast variety and interesting character of its facts, near as well as remote, is peculiarly suitable as a subject for such a *connected* series

of Reading Lessons. It may indeed be doubted, whether the *miscellaneous* extracts of which many School Reading Books consist, are so conducive to habits of accurate and continuous thought as a series of *connected lessons* on a definite subject would be. For, in such a course, each lesson is valuable, not only for itself but for all others that either precede or follow it; and thus tends to correct the volatile and discursive habits now so prevalent, by disciplinizing the mind to learn the facts more *thoroughly*, as well as to group them together so as to show their relations and purpose.

We have based our Lessons on *observation*, that of the pupil himself where practicable: we have made them *progressive*, both as to the subjects treated of and the language used: and, above all, we have endeavoured to give each lesson a thorough tone of *inductiveness*, which will, we believe, be of greater value even than the actual information contained; although this we believe comprehends the most important physical and social features of our own country, and, to a smaller extent, those of the world generally.

The Lessons though somewhat longer than those usually supplied to children of the status for whom they are intended, will nevertheless be quite as readily mastered, and for this obvious reason,—they are generally *self-explanatory*. It thus follows, that while they do not render oral teaching unnecessary, they do limit its operation to more legitimate channels. Much time that with the existing Reading Books must be spent in *translating the language of the book into the language of the child* is saved, and may be devoted to the more useful and interesting occupation of intelligent and less interrupted reading.

LIST OF SUBJECTS.

- I.—HOME OBSERVATION.
- II.—THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH.
- III.—MAPS AND GLOBES.
- IV.—RELATIVE POSITION.
- V.—LAND AND WATER.
- VI.—RIVERS AND RAIN.
- VII.—MOUNTAINS.
- VIII.—OCEANS AND SEAS.
- IX.—THE TIDES.
- X.—SIZE, SHAPE, AND MOTION OF THE EARTH.
- XI.—THE EARTH'S ANNUAL MOTION.
- XII.—THE ATMOSPHERE.
- XIII.—CLIMATE.
- XIV.—SOILS.
- XV.—VEGETATION.
- XVI.—ANIMALS.
- XVII.—ON MAN.
- XVIII.—CONDITIONS OF MANKIND.
- XIX.—MINERALS AND METALS.
- XX.—EMPLOYMENTS OF MAN.
- XXI.—MANUFACTURES.
- XXII.—COMMERCE, No. 1.
- XXIII.—COMMERCE, No. 2.
- XXIV.—RELIGIONS.
- XXV.—GOVERNMENTS.
- XXVI.—GENERAL AND RECAPITULATORY.
- XXVII.—QUESTIONS.