

**GEOGRAPHICAL SPICE:
A MANUAL FOR THE
USE OF TEACHERS**

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Geographical Spice: A Manual for the Use of Teachers by Eliza H. Morton

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ELIZA H. MORTON

**GEOGRAPHICAL SPICE:
A MANUAL FOR THE
USE OF TEACHERS**

GEOGRAPHICAL SPICE.

A MANUAL FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS.



There are stranger things in heaven and earth
Than are dreamed of in your philosophy.



BY


ELIZA H. MORTON,

Author of "Potter's Series of Geographies," etc., etc.




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INTRODUCTION.

BITS of authentic information of an attractive nature have been likened by instructors in Geography to spice in a pudding; for material of this kind, judiciously used, always adds interest to a recitation, and is of value, although strictly speaking it may have but little, if any, connection with the great principles of the science.

Most of the teachers in our public schools have but little time to search in libraries or in books they may have at home for brief descriptions of the great wonder flowers that bloom in the gardens of the world; hence a book giving tried, tested, and reliable notes of this kind must be welcome.

Supplementary matter of this kind must always be secondary to leading principles, and should be used to make great truths shine out more clearly. It is easy for a bright teacher to amuse a class, and to make a lesson resemble a parlor entertainment of games and fairy tales, but that should be far from the object sought. "Geographical Spice" should be used, not as a material out of which lessons are to be constructed, but, as the name implies, as something to be introduced naturally in connection with everyday work for the purpose of kindling the child's enthusiasm, awakening his imagination, and arousing his interest in things and places far off and unseen.

Children naturally take pleasure in the marvelous, and the wonders of earth, sea, and air appeal to their curiosity, and may be used as powerful agents to awaken the mind, to open new worlds of thought, to vary the monotony of school exercises, and to make Geography one of the most delightful of studies.

In this little book no attempt has been made to fully cover any specified ground nor to arrange the subjects logically. The aim has been to select spice that has not lost its flavor, and to present it in a way so that the teacher of advanced classes, as well as the instructor of the little folks, can readily find something each day with which to season his instruction to suit the tastes of his pupils, and to help in the great work of stimulating their minds to a state of vigorous activity.

ELIZA H. MORTON.

GEOGRAPHICAL SPICE.

A FEW OCEAN WONDERS.

BROWN ICEBERGS.

In the Atlantic Ocean brown icebergs have been observed. This color is no doubt due to the earthy matter mixed with the ice.

MILK CANALS.

In the Gulf Stream smooth white streaks called Milk Canals are not uncommon. The cause of these bands is not certainly known. Some suppose them due to myriads of animalcules, and others to the exudation of oil from whales and other marine animals. These canals are always calm and smooth compared with other parts of the Gulf Stream.

FISH FISH-HOOKS.

Among the peculiar inhabitants of the sea is the sucker-fish, found in parts of the Atlantic Ocean. This fish is used by the Indians as a fish-hook. They attach it to a long line that has a buoy at the end of it, and throw the apparatus overboard. This fish fish-hook darts after another fish and attaches itself to it by means of a sucker on the top of its head. The Indian paddles his canoe to the buoy and takes possession of the prize. This is continued until he has obtained all the fishes he wants.

FISHES THAT WALK.

There are fishes that not only traverse the bottom of the ocean, but also walk on the dry land. The gunnard is a fish that closes its fins against its sides like the wings of a bird, and without moving its tail walks along the bottom of the sea by means of six rays, three on each fin, which it places successively on the ground. It can move in all directions by means of these rays. These fish have large heads and bodies, and could not support themselves on their slender rays without the aid of swimming bladders which help to hold them up. Humboldt tells us that he once saw a species of *Doras* leaping over the dry ground by means of its fins, and Layard once met some perch-like fishes walking along the dusty road in the middle of the day. Sir Emerson Tennent mentions the fact that he has seen fishes walking across the country, and one writer speaks of fish that by making an extraordinary use of their fins can climb trees.

RED FOG AT SEA.

Vessels on the Atlantic Ocean, many miles from land, have at times encountered a dense fog, consisting of red-colored dust, which covered the rigging with a thick coat, and rendered the air hazy so that vessels a short distance away could not be distinguished.

OCEANIC TREES.

On the bottom of the Antarctic Ocean in certain places are sea-weed trees with trunks as thick as a man's thigh and eight or ten feet in height. These trees when uprooted by the currents and cast ashore are often mistaken for drift-wood and collected for fuel.

THE BEAUTY OF AN ICEBERG.

The beauty of the floating masses of ice in the polar seas is thus alluded to by a well-known explorer :

"The sublime beauty of an iceberg flashing in the sunlight is beyond description. Solid and mighty, it is yet a subtle object. The light plays through it as through an opal. Its side is blazed with all the colors of the rainbow. These varying colors are due partly to its parallel lines of stratification; partly to the irregular form of the fractured surface, the myriad of reflecting faces set at all angles; partly to the sunlight dissolving in the sharp prisms of its sides and stealing through the mist and spray of the falling waters, flinging here and there the most radiant hues; partly to the waters of the sea in which the berg floats, sometimes green, sometimes blue, all the while the laughing waves bear it aloft, and, encouraged by the sun, leap round and kiss it gently, with each touch stealing away the crystal particles which were theirs of old and theirs of right."

SEA CARPETS.

In the Atlantic Ocean are vast expanses of water so thickly covered with sea-weeds that they resemble great carpets. These regions have been called "Grassy Seas." The sea-weed of which they are composed is covered with clusters of air vessels called tropical grapes. These weed carpets afford food to many small creatures and shelter the eggs and young of myriads of fishes.

MILITARY FISH.

Among the coral islands of the Pacific is found a species of mullet fish which is a military character. These little creatures go in armies, and have officers, pioneers, and a rear-guard. Scouts above and below also accompany each army. If the danger threatens from above, the upper scouts plunge downward; if the danger is from below, the lower scouts dart upward, and thus warn the army. The guard is relieved twice or thrice an hour, in the orderly fashion of disciplined soldiery.