

# **NOTES ON RIVER BASINS**

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Notes on River Basins by Robert A. Williams

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**ROBERT A. WILLIAMS**

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RIVER BASINS**



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BY  
ROBERT A. WILLIAMS



LONDON  
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1872

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## PREFACE.

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THESE Short Notes on River Basins were drawn up some twelve years ago at the suggestion of one of H. M. Inspectors of Schools, and are now published in the hope they may be found useful to Pupil-Teachers and others. They are intended to form a Supplement to the usual text-books of School Geography.

The Compiler has consulted the works of Petermann and Milner, Mackay, Long and Porter, McLeod, W. Hughes, and others, and thankfully acknowledges his obligations to these writers.

The description of the Lakes is taken chiefly from the Notes to Petermann's "Physical Atlas;" and the proof-sheets have been compared with Sharp's "British Gazetteer."

The sections on Canals are appended by the kind permission of the Rev. A. Mackay, from his "Manual of Modern Geography."

R. A. WILLIAMS.

GREAT MARLOW,  
*September 10, 1872.*

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SHORT NOTES  
ON  
RIVER BASINS.



A.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE Water-parting of England and Wales extends, in an irregular line, from the *Cheviot Hills* to the *Land's End*, approaching the east coast in the north, and running out towards the centre of the kingdom in the hills of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. Its eastern declivities, which are gradual, give rise to many of the longest rivers of England. The *Pennine Chain* forms the northern, and the *Devonian Range* the southern portion of this watershed. A depression, however, occurs between the Staffordshire Moorlands and the Cotswold Hills, which is crossed, in opposite directions, by the Trent and Upper Avon.

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B

A ridge of undulating ground extends from the Cotswold Hills to the Lincoln Heights, and separates the Trent from the basin of the Wash; whilst a parallel ridge, commencing at Salisbury Plain and terminating at Hunstanton Cliff, separates the Wash from the basin of the Thames.

The Chalk Hills of the North and South Downs radiate from Salisbury Plain, the former ending at Dover Cliff, and the latter at Beachy Head. They enclose the Weald of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, and separate the basin of the Thames from the rivers flowing into the English Channel.

A line of low and detached hills connects the Staffordshire Moorlands with the Cotswold Hills, and separates the upper courses of the Trent, Great Ouse, and Thames from the basin of the Severn. It includes the Wrekin, the Clent Hills, and the Lickey Hills. The Edge Hills separate the Cherwell from the Avon.

The western watershed of the Severn is partly made up of Dean Forest, Malvern Hills, Clee Hills, and Wenlock Edge; whilst the Berwyn Hills and their eastern continuation to the Cheshire Plain separate the Dee from the Vyrnwy.

**TYNE.** — *Drains* Northumberland and N. Durham.