HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY ON A REGIONAL BASIS; VOL. I

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Historical geography on a regional basis; Vol. I by Ernest W. Dann

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ERNEST W. DANN

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HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY ON A REGIONAL BASIS

BY

ERNEST W. DANN, B.A. (Oxon.)

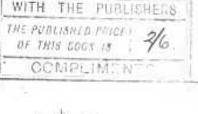
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY; ASSISTANT MASTER, REIGATE GRAMMAS SCHOOL

THE BRITISH ISLES

WITH SIX MAPS

Vol. I. 1

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PREFACE

This little volume has been written, at the invitation of the Editor, to give students a more definite idea of the inter-relation of Geography and History than they can possibly gain from the passing allusions in books entirely devoted to the one or the other subject. Of the importance of Historical Geography there can be no doubt: but there is a great deal of confusion of terms. It is often forgotten that Geography is the substantive and Historical the adjective, and it is most important to give the science its proper physical basis. over, the study of it should be based upon reason and not upon memory. Kaleidoscopic political changes at rapid intervals do not require a high order of intelligence to acquire, and are merely interesting; the study of man on the earth is a far deeper matter. Moreover, the basis of treatises upon Historical Geography hitherto has been in the main chronological. is well for the History; but it gives no sort of clue to the real physical causes of things, and so loses its value as a mental discipline. My aim has been to preserve chronology in so far as it does not interfere with regional treatment. This has been easy enough in the case of the British Isles. A country so small can have but few main highways. Practically the whole thing centres on London. To London from the Continent; from London to Ireland and Wales, and to Scotland by two routes; that sums up most of our "dynamical" History. The "statical" is a matter of climate. In the case of Europe the subject has to be greatly modified in scope, and, while narrative History has to be largely eliminated, regional treatment is more thoroughly employed.

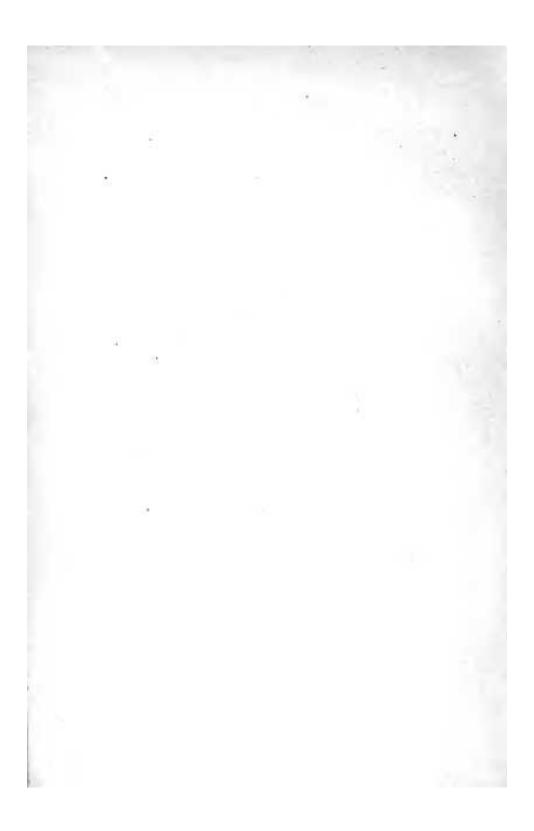
I have quoted authorities pretty freely. The main difficulty is finding enough to use successfully in any particular branch. Historians are often too much bound down by other exigencies to present the details we need to give us a full understanding of many important topographical matters, and most Historical Atlases stultify their maps, either by leaving out mountains altogether, or by representing their often wide areas as hairy caterpillars. Any map will do, it is assumed, if it shows approximately where a place is. I would urge all teachers of History to insist on using a good physical wall-map constantly. Kiepert, or Habenicht, or Philip or E. Stanford, all can supply the need at a reasonable figure, and Philip's and Bartholomew's cheap atlases can be successfully used, if supplemented by good teaching, by any class. Boys and girls, as a not inconsiderable experience has taught

me, take fifty per cent. more interest in History when it is intelligently treated in the light of Geography, or vice versa, than they ever did before.

For reading the whole of the proofs I am indebted to Mr. A. Lund Newell, Secretary to the Reigate Education Committee. For the rest, I should like to declare myself one of the many who have profited by the kindly encouragement of Mr. Herbertson at Oxford, and by the inspiring lectures of his predecessor as Reader of Geography there, Mr. H. J. Mackinder.

E. W. D.

Claremont, Chart Lane, Reigate; Nov. 1907.



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