# TARR AND MCMURRY GEOGRAPHIES. FIRST PART. HOME GEOGRAPHY

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Tarr and McMurry Geographies. First Part. Home Geography by Ralph S. Tarr & Frank M. McMurry

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## RALPH S. TARR & FRANK M. MCMURRY

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# HOME GEOGRAPHY

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#### TARR AND MCMURRY GEOGRAPHIES

## FIRST PART

## HOME GEOGRAPHY

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WITH SUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONA, CHIEFLY PHOTOGRAPUS
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#### PREFACE

This is the first of a series of geographies; the more advanced treatment deals at greater length with the world and its inhabitants. Since Part I of the present volume is a radical innovation, it perhaps needs an explanatory foreword.

NECESSITY OF HOME GEOGRAPHY.—The final basis for all study of geography is actual experience. Yet text-books on that subject rarely treat Home Geography at all, and those that do, devote but few pages to it. This subject should, we think, receive far more careful attention.

NECESSITY OF OTHER BASAL NOTIONS. — Home experience alone, however, cannot offer a complete basis for the later study of geography, because no one locality presents all the features required. From this it happens that the best books have contained some definitions and illustrations, as of mountain, river, valley, harbor, and factory, and have planned to build the later text with the ideas these gave as a foundation. Such conceptions are certainly necessary in the early part of geography; but mere definitions fail to produce vivid, accurate pictures. The average pupil who has pursued geography for a year, has little notion of the great importance of soil, of what a mountain or a river really is, of the value of good trade routes, and why a vessel cannot find a harbor wherever

it will cast anchor along the coast. Yet such ideas are the proper basis for the study of geography in the higher grades. The fact that they are so often wanting is proof that our geography still lacks foundation.

How these Needs are met. - The first 110 pages of this volume attempt to supply this foundation by treating first, such common things as soil, hills, valleys, industries, climate, and government, which are part of every child's environment; and secondly, other features, as mountains, rivers, lakes, and the ocean, which, though absent from many localities, are still necessary as a preparation for later study. Definitions, however, are not relied upon for giving the child this extra knowledge, but detailed descriptions and discussions instead. This by no means involves neglect of the child's own environment from the time the unfamiliar matter is introduced, for throughout the geographies home experiences are frequently used. We believe that our plan gives a fuller guarantee of fitness for advanced study than has heretofore been furnished.

RELATIONSHIP TO MANKIND.—According to the definition of geography,—which treats of the relation between man and the earth,—a hill or a lake is worthy of mention only because it bears a relation to us, the men upon the earth; considered by itself it is not a part of geography. Therefore each chapter which takes up one of the above subjects, either closes with the bearing of the given topic upon mankind, or it deals with the human relationship throughout.

EARTH AS A WHOLE. —The most difficult portion of our task has been that which presents the Earth as a Whole. That a bird's-eye view should be given at an