

Q. What is Political Geography?

A. A description of the various political divisions of the World, and of the extent of different countries.

Q. What is meant by the Political Divisions of the World?

A. Those divisions of the World which have been formed by man; such as King-doms, Empires, Col-ô-nies, and Re-pub-lics.

CONVERSATION IV.

Something about the Hemispheres.

1. The Earth has more names than one. It is called a *Planet*, a *World*, a *Ball*, a *Globe*, and a *Sphere*. It is called a *planet* because it moves through the Heavens; it is called a *world* because it is an inhabited part of God's great Creation; and it is called a *ball*, *globe*, or *sphere* because it is rounded in shape.

2. As the Earth is shaped like a ball, we have to picture it either on a globe, or on a drawing called a map. As we turn round a globe, we can see each side of it; but on a map we have to picture each side separately.

3. As we cannot make a picture large enough to show every river, mountain, sea, ocean, or city on the Earth in its full size, we have to represent them on a map. But as the Earth is round, we can only show, in a drawing, half of it at one view. Such a drawing is called a hem-i-sphere, or half a sphere. On this drawing we have to put a number of round or curved lines to show that the Earth is round, and to point out where each place on its surface is situated.

4. These hemispheres have various names. The two usually shown on a map are called the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. These hemispheres show all the world east and west of Europe, where Geography was first taught. The Northern and Southern Hemispheres show those parts of the Earth north or south of the Equator,—of which we shall hear by and by. If you look on the map, or on the following figure, you will see all the land and water divisions in each hemisphere.

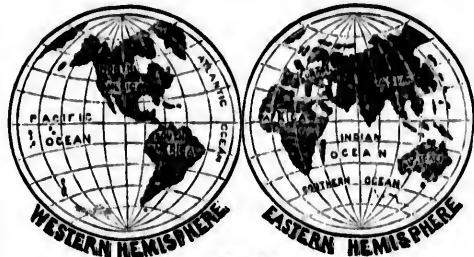


Fig. 3.

EXAMINATION LESSON IV.

The Hemispheres.

Q. What is the Earth called?

A. A Planet, a World, a Ball, a Globe, or a Sphere.

Q. How is the World pictured to us?

A. Either on a globe or a map.

Q. Which is the most natural way of showing us the whole Earth?

A. On a globe; for we can then see its different sides, and how the land and water are connected.

Q. How is the Earth, when it is shown on a map, made to look like a ball?

A. By means of the curved or circular lines which are drawn upon it to make it appear round, as on Fig. 3.

Q. How is it that we can only see half of the round World on a map?

A. Because as the paper is flat, so the surface of the map is flat also, which makes it impossible to show on it in one picture more than half of a round body.

Q. How, then, is the other half of the whole World shown?

A. By means of a second map, which shows the other half of the World.

Q. What are these halves called?

A. Hemispheres, or half-globes.

Q. Which two are most generally shown or used in Geographies?

A. The Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

Q. Why are they called the Eastern and Western Hemispheres?

A. Because the chief part of the land and water described in them lies to the east and west of Europe, where Geography was first taught.