

P R E F A C E.

THE school is merely an introduction to the child's education. Its chief aims should be to strengthen the desire to know more of those objects which it brings into view, and to point out the paths that lead to the unknown. On parting company with his teacher, the pupil is prepared to become an independent worker, and to pursue his way with ever-increasing interest and power.

The text-book performs its proper function when it becomes an auxiliary of the school in working out these aims. While it conveys valuable truth respecting its subject, its higher purpose should be to awaken an interest in that subject, and to lead to systematic and persevering effort in searching it out more fully.

In studying geography, children need to realize that they are acquiring a knowledge of things which have a real existence in the world around them, and that this knowledge has been gained by such observation as they are capable of exercising. The only sure way of securing this is, at the outset, to take them to something that is tangible.

The first knowledge presented must be concrete, and should be given through oral lessons on their own neighbourhood. In this way beginners acquire clear and definite ideas as to the nature of the study upon which they are entering, and they are led to work upward from things to definitions and principles. For some general hints on introductory oral lessons on geography, the teacher is referred to the Author's advanced text-book.

In preparing a new edition of this book, so many changes were required in consequence of the altered political relations of various countries, that it has been considered advisable to re-write the greater portion of the work. On some countries the text is fuller than in former editions. For several reasons it has been thought advisable to give the population of countries and cities in an appendix, instead of in the body of the work as heretofore.

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