

densers of moisture, determine the number, direction and character of numerous water-courses, give origin to lake basins, control the distribution of population, the position of county boundaries, the position of railways and other channels of communication, and, to a large extent, the natural products and the industries of different sections of the country.

The *drainage* system of Acadia, determined as above, presents many special features worthy of study. Few areas of similar extent are to be found which are so well watered, few have streams presenting greater attractions and variety in the way of beauty, few there are in which are such stores of energy to be hereafter drawn upon for purposes of industrial development. With these streams and lakes are linked many important events in the early settlement of the country; they are now, and must ever remain, controlling factors in the location of towns and cities; for they afford the easiest and cheapest means of bringing to the sea-board the products of the interior. No two of these streams are exactly alike, and the differences at once raise, in an inquiring mind, a desire to know their cause.

The *climate* of Acadia has already been referred to in a general way; but obviously in a country presenting so many and such marked contrasts in other physical features, there must also be many local peculiarities of temperature and humidity, and it is interesting to trace the causes to which these differences are due.

Dependent upon all the above causes, and varying with them, we have next to notice the peculiarities in the *flora* and *fauna* of Acadia, embracing the distribution and character of our forests, with their native inhabitants; similar facts as to the denizens of our inland and coastal waters; and the best methods of preventing serious injury to both. In the same connection all economic products, of the mine as well as of the forest and the fisheries, are of importance to those who take an interest in the welfare and development of the land they inhabit.

Finally, behind all the features as exhibited by the Acadia of to-day, lies its *earlier history*, not merely that which is contained in human records since the time of the first European occupation of our shores, but that also of which the events are only to be found in the pages of the great Stone Book—events which, occurring, it may be, many

millions of years ago, afford the only intelligible explanation of how things came to be as we now find them.

In future chapters it shall be our aim to consider, in a simple way, the physiographic features briefly enumerated above, with their relations to present human interests; and, in the sequel, to trace, in an equally simple way, if possible, the main facts of our geological history.

### Notes On English Literature.

By G. K. BUTLER, M.A., Halifax.

Rip Van Winkle.

Posthumous: is a word which will draw from some pupils very amusing explanations. I have been told that it means a work written by a man after he was dead.

Woden: what other Saxon gods have given names to our days? From what source do we get the names of the months? How does it happen that September (septem, Latin, seven), is so-called? It is our ninth month.

P. 68, l. 1.—Parse "remember" in this line. What verbs beside "must" have the same power? What are such verbs called? What is subject of "must?" l. 10.—What is meant by "print their outlines on the sky?" Are Irving's weather notes true for Nova Scotia or New Brunswick? l. 16.—Meaning of "fairy mountains?" They or their frequenters seem to have had magic power or this story couldn't be told. It might be interesting to see if any of the children actually believe it. l. 21.—Why "Dutch colonists?" When and by whom was New Amsterdam taken? It seems almost retributive that his successor on the English throne was a Dutchman.

P. 69, l. 2.—Parse "may he rest." ls. 5 and 6.—Meaning of "latticed windows," "gable fronts?" l. 10.—Up to what date was the State a colony of Great Britain? By comparing the historical dates and the length of Rip's sleep it is possible to limit the time within which the story is supposed to have happened. ls. 18 and 19.—Is it true that a "hen-pecked husband" is meek abroad? The general opinion now prevailing is, I think, quite the reverse. l. 23.—Ask for meaning of "curtain lecture" before giving any explanation. I was told by a seventh grade pupil that it was a lecture on curtain hanging given by a wife to her husband. l. 25.—Ter-magant is synonymous with what word just used? l. 27.—How was Rip "thrice blessed?"