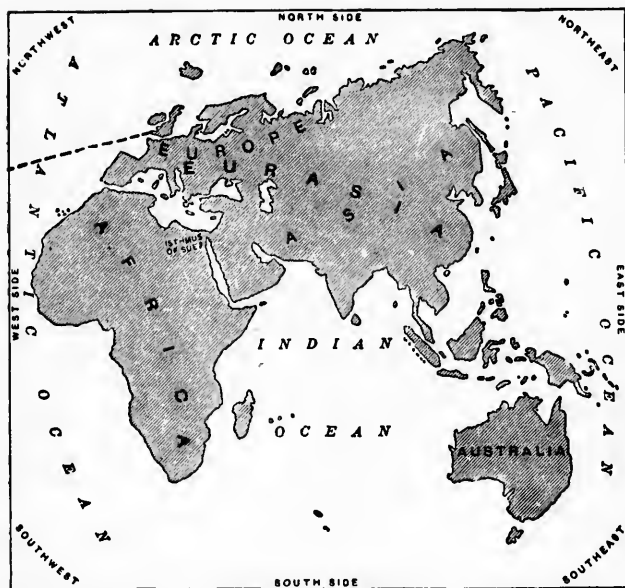




own mother country, the very centre of the great British Empire to which we belong, the greatest empire that has ever existed on the earth, and which now governs one-fifth part of the land in the world, and is able to rule the whole of the sea. Never forget that you were born under the flag of this great empire. Look again very closely at that island. The northern and smaller part is Scotland, the southern part is England, and the other island to the west is Ireland. From these two islands have gone forth the British race of people, speaking the English language, and planting free governments round the world—in Canada, the United States of America, South Africa, and Australia. You will learn all about this by-and-by. The people of these islands are our nearest relations; to them we owe the happiness and prosperity of Canada, and it sounds homelike to hear them talking in our own language; but after we leave these islands we shall hear strange talk that we cannot understand.

Glance at the picture again. Look for the other islands of this continent. Opposite Great Britain, near the south-east corner of the map, you will notice a large island, Australia. It is so very large that it is often called a continent, for the continents are, in fact, immense islands. Later on we shall visit Australia and find English spoken on all sides; for we shall find Australia peopled chiefly

by the British race. The Australians are our near relatives and very good friends, but we cannot visit them on this trip.

Many other large islands lie along the east and south-east coasts of the Eastern Continent, and towards the north a few small ones.

Turn back to the picture of America, and compare the sizes of the continents. This one is nearly twice as large as America, and very many times as large as Australia. Write down the names of these three continents in the order of their sizes. They all have oceans around them. What ocean is north of the Eastern Continent? Name the ocean at the south. What do people call the ocean at the east? Over what ocean did we come to reach this Eastern Continent? Look how the water almost cuts the Eastern Continent in two. There again is a very narrow strip of

land like the one at the central part of America. What is the name of that one? This neck of land is also an isthmus and the name is printed on the map as you see. Tell from the map the name of the great mass of land south-west of the Isthmus of Suez and study its shape carefully. The other part north-east of the isthmus is so vast that it gets two names. Read the name of the part nearest to Great Britain, and the name of the part nearest to Australia.

These three portions of the Eastern Continent are so immense that they are generally spoken of as three continents; so also are North and South America. Europe and Asia are least separated; but on the whole we find in the world three huge islands which divide into six grand divisions. Look at the map again; write the names of these six grand divisions in the order of their sizes, and place Australia last on the list.

ORAL AND WRITTEN EXERCISES.

(Make all statements in complete sentences.)

How many bright stars do you count in the star-map on page 10? Look for these same stars in the sky. Tell the cardinal points of the compass. How can you find the north in a dark forest on a cloudy day, or even at night? At what hour does your shadow fall north-west? Tell the time of day when your shadow stretches north-east. Tell in a sentence which way the great mountains of Canada lie from your home. How does a mountain differ from a large hill?