

CATECHISM OF GEOGRAPHY.

Definitions.

1. What is GEOGRAPHY ?

A description of the earth.

2. How may it be divided ?

Into *physical* and *political*: the first, treating of the earth in a state of nature; and the second, describing it as affected by man.

3. Of what shape is the earth, and of what size ?

Nearly round like an orange. It measures about 24,000 miles round and 8000 through.

4. Of what does the surface consist ?

Land and water, the latter occupying about two thirds of the whole surface.

5. What are the six largest divisions of the land ?

Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Oceanica. Formerly, Europe, Asia, Africa and America were called the four quarters of the world.

6. What are the largest masses of land called ?

Continents. Of these there are three, viz:—the Old World, the New World, and Australia. The Old World or Eastern Continent, includes Europe, Asia and Africa. The New World or Western Continent, includes North and South America. Australia, with the numerous Islands which form the Archipelagoes (or clusters of islands) of Australasia, Malaysia and Polynesia makes up the sixth division, viz:—Oceanica.

7. What are the smaller divisions of the land ?

Islands, peninsulas, isthmuses, promontories, coasts, &c.

8. What is an island ?

A smaller tract of land surrounded by water, as Newfoundland.