

Physical or Natural Geography, the subject of my Lecture this night, treats of the general features upon the face of the earth, the arrangement of the inorganic matter of the globe, and the distribution of organic life, the phenomena of the atmosphere, and its relation to the varied animal and vegetable productions with which the earth is replenished. The limits of this department of science are not strictly defined; the connection is so intimate with Astronomy, Geology, Botany and Zoology, that a trespass upon them is unavoidable in prosecuting this branch of physical enquiry.

The surface of our planet consists of unequal portions of land and water, the water preponderating to a great extent; in fact the fluid proportions are as $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ solid; a preponderance of land being in the northern hemisphere or division.

To large continuous masses of land is given the name Continent, of which there are four, viz: Europe, Asia, Africa and America; Europe being towards the north, Africa to the south, Asia the east, and America to the west. Some persons have given the name of Continent to Australia, but it is more strictly speaking an immense island, comprising with numerous groupings of islands lying around the fifth division of the globe, under the name Oceania, from their being situated in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Islands are those portions of land entirely surrounded by water; a peninsula is a neck of land surrounded on three sides only by water, and an isthmus is the narrow neck washed on two sides which connects two larger masses of land together; capes are extreme points and promontaries; points and headlands are the names given to inferior projections; there are also gulfs, bays, sounds, and many other terms in use to express different portions of the earth or sea.

The flat view of the land as we travel through a comparatively level country, and the side view as seen in cuttings and the sides of mountains, exhibit a great variety of substances of rock differently arranged. Popularly the term rock is applied only to the more solid portions of the globe; geologically speaking it extends to every kind of formation, to loose sands, clays and gravels, as well as to the limestones and granites.

The perforations of the miner extend to scarcely more than 2000 feet below the level of the sea. There is, however, a mine in Bohemia which, before it was abandoned, attained to the great depth of 3545 feet. But in consequence of formations

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