

continents and other great features is fitted to serve some special purpose in his advancement and history, for which special purpose the Divine Architect fashioned it through the ages, in strict accordance with his eternal and unchanging plan. This is the Geography that these eminent men invite us to study, instead of a mere collection of ill-arranged and multifarious details.

The book before us deals more with the physical features of the Earth than with its relations to humanity; but its treatment of the subject is unique and philosophical in all its parts; and we venture the opinion that veteran geographers will find food for thought in its pages, even from the discussion of a subject so simple and apparently so well understood as Rivers. We of the Western World can not help wishing that the author had possessed the same accurate and exact knowledge of our continent as of his own, that his illustrations might have been less exclusively drawn from Europe. We find that many of the statistics of the book differ from those that we have been accustomed to learn, but perhaps they are no less likely to be true. The translator, Rev. William L. Gage, has before given us in English the author's 'Geographical studies', but we have not seen the book. We understand that he is now in Europe, chiefly for the purpose of translating other of Ritter's works.

In this connection, we wish to say something about the new Series of School Maps prepared by Prof. Guyot, and published by Scribner & Co., New York. Prof. Guyot is generally acknowledged to be the most eminent of living geographers since the death of Humboldt and Ritter. He studied for years with those great men, and for many more years has pursued his investigations with his friend Agassiz. He has passed the last fifteen years in this country, which we understand he proposes to make his home for the rest of his life. With such extraordinary advantages, he has given us a series of maps, with which we confidently assert no other maps for the student are to be compared. Their chief excellence is that, by an ingenious contrivance, they give us what no other maps give,—a clear and full idea of the vertical forms of the earth,—the mountains, plains, and plateaus. Thus, they are primarily physical maps. Besides this, they show distinctly the political boundaries and divisions, but marked in such a way as not to interfere with the main object. The names, of which there is a sufficient number for the ordinary purposes of the student, are so printed as not to be seen at the distance of a few feet; hence these maps have all the advantages that can be claimed for any series of outline maps. Thus we have offered us at least three distinct maps in one, beautifully executed, and at a very moderate cost.—*H. in Illinois Teacher.*

VII. Papers on Natural History.

1. EVIL EFFECTS OF DESTROYING SMALL BIRDS.

The phenomena of the present season are remarkable. If we go for shade into the woods in this leafy month of June, we stop short before thickets where the stout young oaks are as bare as in January, or show only the skeletons of leaves, where caterpillars are still searching for some remnant of moist green food. If we meet the country doctor in his rounds, he says that he cannot ride in shaded roads without his hat, in the hot noon, because he finds his hat and coat-collar thickly strewn with caterpillars, which have dropped upon him as he passed. In the parson's garden, the gooseberry-bushes show some withering fruit, but no foliage; and instead, a show of caterpillars actually covering every twig. In the squire's pleasure-garden the ladies are mourning over their roses, almost every petal of which is pierced, or the very heart eaten out by some grub or fly. On any grassy bank where the wayfarer would like to rest there is such a coating of white grubs that he turns away in disgust. If we go out in the moonlight, a dozen cockchafers knock against our faces in five minutes; and we foresee the profusion of fat white worms which will, in consequence, be turned up by the plough next year. The wall fruit has already received the wound which will turn to decay before the autumn, and the canker is planted in the apples and pears, which will be deformed and seamed, and hard, and without flavour at crop-time. There never was a finer agricultural prospect, but for this; but the farmer dreads seeing the mangel leaves blown and corrupted by the vast families of grubs hidden in their substance, and the collars of the roots infested by big caterpillars, fattening on the sweet juices which he intended for his cows. It is well if he knows that the rooks can help him in his last case, and that they do not want to eat the root, as he once believed, but the destroyers of the root. These melancholy sights are not, however, all that is to be seen. They present themselves in districts where there are sparrow-clubs, and men and boys shoot a little bird wherever they have a chance. They are seen where a zealous and patriotic rural constable, or any loungee who has nothing to do, presses his services on the residents, to net the ivy on house or wall, to root out the spaces under

the eaves, and make a clearance of every sparrow, finch, thrush, swallow or other winged creature. Where the pest is not found, it is where these bird-destroyers are not allowed their will. When refused, civilly or otherwise, they sneer or stare, and find something to do in calling the neighbours to witness that the silly proprietors will have no green peas, nor anything that grows in juicy shoots; that the cherry-trees and the roses will be disbudded; that only the hardest green currant or two will be left on each bunch; that the gooseberries will be found sucked hollow, and a full tithe of the cherries and strawberries gone.

Such is the spring prophecy; but when summer has come—this particular summer—strangers stop to wonder at a garden here and there where all is green and bright, amidst a series of damaged orchards and kitchen gardens, and bare copses; and the paradise is sure to be the place where the birds have been let alone. It is true the rows of peas have had to be covered for a while with thorns; and some netting of bushes have been required, and some precautions in regard to the fruit trees. It is true, also, that the small birds have helped themselves to some of the food of the poultry, and to a certain share of the fruit; but there is the difference that where the birds are banished the precautions are of little or no avail, while they have a good chance with the birds for partners. This year, for instance, some proprietors have done everything they could think of. They have syringed their plum-trees with nauseous decoctions to keep off the green fly; they are sprinkling road dust thickly over their gooseberries, and are dissolving the white grubs into froth over whole banks, or plots of grass; they are employing regiments of children to pick off the caterpillars, paying them by the pint or quart, but they cannot overtake the damage, and are almost ready to give up the contest. If they can find mischief going on in a garden or field where the birds have not been meddled with, they begin to triumph, unless they are aware of the true answer. That answer is given by some lover of rural life—some observer of the ways of birds and insects—who says that a single brood of nestlings in the ivy or the hedge has been seen to devour hundreds of grubs or other insects per day, showing that if Nature were let alone, there would be millions so got rid of in a mile (as, indeed, we knew before by the French report); and if, after the insects had been left to their natural enemies, there were still too many, what might not the infliction become if they were left without check? The check ought this year to have been very strong. The swallows came early; the sparrows burst out of the hedges in crowds; the blackbirds and finches have been whistling, and piping, and chirping, as if the world were all their own. But this is only where they are allowed to live; and there are too many parishes and districts where they are not. This is no trifle, and the present season ought to be a lesson for future years.—*London Daily News.*

2. ADVANTAGES OF TREES.

How beautiful, most beautiful, of earth's ornaments are trees? Waving out on the hills and down in the valleys, in wild wood or orchard, or singly by the way-side. For their shade and shelter to man and brute; for the music the wind makes among their leaves and the birds in their branches; for the fruits and flowers they bear, to delight the palate and the eye, and the fragrance that grows out and upward from them forever, they are worshipful trees.

"Under his own vine and fig-tree"—what more expressive of rest, independence and lordship in the earth! Well may the Arab reverence in the date palm a God-giving source of sustenance. Dear to the Spaniard is the olive, and to the Hindoo his banyan, wherein dwell the families of man, and the birds of Heaven build their nests. Without trees what a desert place would be our earth—naked, parched, and hateful to the eye! Yet how many are thoughtless of the use and beauty of trees. How many strike the axe idly or wantonly at their roots. Above all other things in the landscape we should deal gently with trees. Most beautiful where and as God plants them, but beautiful even as planted by the poorest art of man, trees should be protected and preserved. If he is a benefactor who causes two blades of grass to grow where one grew before, how much greater his beneficence who plants a tree in some waste place, to shelter and shade, to draw thither song birds and to bear fruit for man. Plant trees, O man! that has waste land, and be careful of those that are planted.

VIII. Papers on Colonial Subjects..

1. LORD DERBY ON THE ADVANTAGES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

In the course of the conversation which took place in the House of Lords on the defences of Canada, Lord Derby expressed himself on an important question with great earnestness and with a dis-