

SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. XVIII.]

TORONTO, JANUARY 30, 1897.

No. 3.

A FIRST LESSON

THE nicest way to learn geography is to go to the different countries themselves and see them; but as we cannot all do this, another way of teaching the subject has been invented. The way this is done is seen in our picture. A round globe is made of wood of exactly the same shape as the world, and then the continents and oceans are painted on in different colours. This little girl is pointing with one finger to the British Islands, where, perhaps, she has some relation—a cousin or a brother—and is asking her mother why it takes so long to go what seems such a short distance. Very possibly she will go herself some day when she is older, and then everything will be made quite clear to her.

THE JUMPING MOUSE.

HAVE you sometimes heard a mouse nibbling in the wall, or seen the little fellow scampering across the room? A mouse will run so fast that you can hardly see him, and then dart into his hole.

The jumping mouse is found in the fields and not in houses. It rises on its hind legs and leaps forward into the air, and although so



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small will sometimes clear five or six feet at a spring. When pursued its movements resemble those of a bird, so high does it

ing near them hunt out their nests and carry off most of the food for their own use. The little tracks of the field mice can

rise into the air, and so quick are its jumps. It can run as well as jump, and this it does with great speed.

When the cold weather begins the jumping mice go into winter quarters, where they remain in a torpid state until May or June. They sometimes make their nests at a depth of twenty inches. These are made of long flexible strands of grass, and so neatly interwoven that no trace of an opening can be found. How the mouse can form such a snuggerly while curled up inside of it excites our wonder. It appears to have been formed around the body of the little occupant by some skillful weaver.

Who gave these mice their skill in thus protecting themselves during the winter, and taught them to elude their pursuers by their rapid jumps? It was God. He has endowed every animal with the knowledge necessary for its mode of life.

Field mice have been known to store up such quantities of dried roots and other food, to last through the long winter, that half-starved people liv-

ing near them hunt out their nests and carry off most of the food for their own use. The little tracks of the field mice can