

PREFATORY NOTE

As "Morang's Modern Geographies" are a somewhat marked innovation, both in subject matter and in form, a word of explanation may perhaps be in place. The principles upon which these Geographies have been prepared are fully explained in the following pages; indeed this is the purpose of the issue of this little book. The form adopted is that of the latest geographical text-books in Great Britain and in the United States. After carefully considering the question, the Publishers came to the conclusion that the old form is both unnecessary and unwieldy. The main excuse for the size of the common geography is the supposed need of large maps, a need which should be supplied by atlas and wall maps. This supposed requirement has led to the introduction of so many names, entirely unnecessary to pupils, that the purpose of a school-book has generally been sacrificed to that of a cheap atlas. The most pertinent inquiry in regard to the maps of a text-book in geography should refer not to their size, but to their quality; and in respect of excellence it is confidently stated that the maps of "Morang's Modern Geographies" are the best thus far printed in any text-book on the subject. Aside from this, the old form of geography is distinctly objectionable because of its size, which makes it difficult to handle and to carry. When open it occupies nearly the entire surface of the desk; and being so unwieldy, it is the most easily damaged of all the school books in use.