

Give the directions of objects from one another while the map is hanging up. Put up the map of the school yard, and any others that you have, and tell the directions from one place to another.<sup>1</sup>

It is clear now what a map is. It is a drawing telling something about a country, just as a letter may be some writing telling something about a friend. When you read such a letter, you think about your friend, how he looks, what he has been doing, and so on. So when you look at a map, you should think about the country, how it looks, how far apart the places are, and other particulars connected with it.

There is more than one kind of map. Here is a picture of North America (Fig. 131). It shows how this continent might appear if you looked down upon it from some point far above. A picture like this, showing the mountains and valleys, is called a *relief map*. That is, it gives you some idea of the relief or height of the land.<sup>2</sup>

The maps that you have been drawing do not show this. They are flat maps, representing the country as if it were

<sup>1</sup> After the children are quite at home in using the map when it is hung on the north wall, hang it on other sides of the room and let them give the directions. This is easy work if properly graded; but the fact that many children studying geography are confused in regard to directions on the map suggests that caution be exercised.

It is well to bear in mind that this is simply a rule of position that every map maker has adopted to avoid confusion. A picture of any part of the world would be just as correct, if drawn showing the positions reversed as was formerly often done.

<sup>2</sup> If it seem desirable, the teacher may introduce the study of contour maps at this point. The children might draw a contour map of their own neighborhood, and then possibly make a relief map from it by cutting out pieces of cardboard that correspond to the spaces between the lines. Relief maps may also be constructed by modelling in sand or, better still, in putty, as the latter can afterward be colored, if desired.