

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHY is twofold, Physical and Political. Physical Geography is valuable mainly because it makes Political Geography more intelligible. We study the natural features of the Earth, in order that we may better understand Man who inhabits it,—his political, social, and religious condition. If Physical Geography is the foundation, Political Geography is the superstructure, without which the foundation is of little account.

In the present treatise, these two elements of the science are combined, and wrought into one consistent and harmonious whole. In the account that is given of every part of the earth, whether large or small, one uniform order is pursued. First, the Natural features are described, including the locality and size; the mountains, plains, rivers, lakes, seas, and generally whatever constitutes the surface; the soil and climate; the products, or what the soil and climate produce, and the minerals:—all these coming under the head of its Physical character. Secondly, the Political features are described, including the population, as to race and descent, as well as to numbers; the manners and customs of the people; the capitals and chief towns; the government and religion, and, occasionally, important historical statements:—all these coming under the head of Political Geography.

By following this method uniformly throughout the book, several important advantages are secured. 1. Greater clearness and exactness of statement are obtained. 2. A much larger