

EASY LESSONS IN GENERAL GEOGRAPHY.

"HE...HANGETH THE EARTH UPON NOTHING."—Job xxvi. 7.

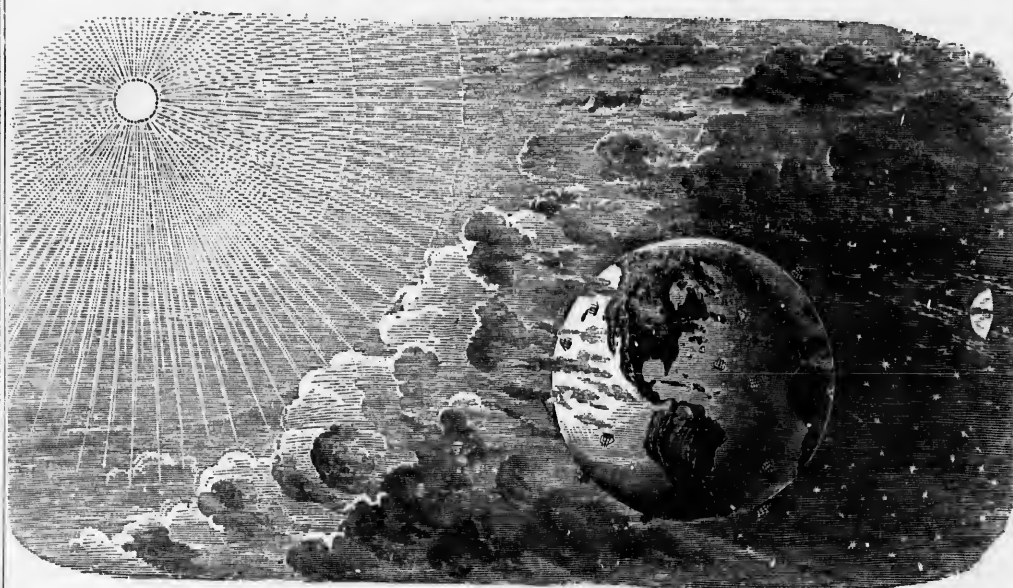


Fig. 1.—THE SUN, EARTH, MOON, STARS, AND CLOUDS, IN THE HEAVENS.

PART I.

[Before beginning our regular lessons, we shall explain a few things which boys and girls see every day, but which they do not understand. We hope that they will pay attention to what we say, and try to remember it.]

CONVERSATION OR READING LESSON No. I.

Introductory Sketch.

1. When boys and girls awake in the morning, that which helps them to see the things around them is the beautiful light of day.

2. At first they do not know where the light comes from; but if they get up very early on a clear morning, they will see that it comes from the bright round Sun, which appears to be slowly rising out of the ground, or trees, or water.

3. As they watch the Sun, they see that it rises higher in the sky (as in Fig. 1), and gets brighter; so that in a short time they cannot look at it, for it dazzles their eyes too much.

4. The Sun always appears to rise in the east, and to set in the west. At noon it is high up in the southern sky, and then the shadows of houses, trees, &c., point toward the north. In the morning the shadows point toward the west, and in the evening toward the east.

5. After 12 o'clock in the day, the Sun appears to come down lower and lower in the sky; so that toward evening it seems to be very near the ground again.

6. By and by it goes quite out of sight; and then (if the night is fine) the Stars, and perhaps the Moon, appear in the sky.

7. The Stars are of different sizes: some twinkle very brightly, while others can scarcely be seen.

8. The new Moon, when first seen, looks like a silver bow. Every night it rises later than on the previous one; and for a fortnight it grows larger and rounder, until it is "at the full." After this it begins to get smaller