

globe. But even on this land-hemisphere, as it is called, there is nearly as much water as land.

Look, now, at the way in which land and water are arranged. If we were to put on the globe a tiny insect to represent a ship, which could crawl over the smooth surface of the water, but could not cross the coast-line of any part of the land, this insect would be able to reach every part of the ocean surface quite freely. All the sea-water of the globe is joined together, and forms really one ocean. The land surface is differently arranged. It forms a number of islands, separated from one another by parts of the sea. Some of these land masses are very large indeed,—so large that we do not call them islands but *continents*, or continuous stretches of land. But however large such a mass may be, even though it consists of more than one continent, yet it has all round it a coast line where it is bounded by the ocean.

If we look a little below the surface, however, all this seems changed. The land or solid part of the earth is really continuous all round it, although it dips down in certain places to a low level and is covered by the water. If we were tall enough we could wade across the ocean as we wade across a creek or a pond, and feel solid ground under our feet all the way. The bed of the ocean consists of plains and valleys and hills, just as the dry land does. Its highest hills have their peaks and ridges above water, and we call them islands.

Although the whole of the water surface of the globe is joined together, we speak of different stretches of it as *oceans*. The area round the north pole is called the Arctic Ocean, and that round the south pole the Antarctic Ocean. These oceans are mostly covered with ice and snow, and we know very little about them. They may contain islands which have not yet been discovered, and we know that in the centre of the Antarctic there is a great mass of snow-clad land which we might call a continent.

The largest of the oceans is the Pacific. There is no real division between it and the Antarctic Ocean. If your school globe has the parallels of latitude marked, you may look for