

## II.—OF THE NATURAL DIVISIONS OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

1. The surface of the earth consists of land and water; rather less than one third being land, and the rest water.\*

2. The various parts of the land are distinguished by different names, according to their extent or form. The principal of these are *continents*, *islands*, *peninsulas*, *promontories* or *capes*, and *isthmuses*.

3. The water, by a like distribution, consists chiefly of *oceans*, *seas*, *lakes*, *gulfs*, *bays*, and *straits*.

4. A *continent* is a tract of land, of large extent. An *island* is a smaller tract, entirely surrounded by water.

5. A *peninsula* is a portion of land nearly surrounded by water. If such a portion extend but a little way into the sea, it is called a *cape* or *promontory*, or simply a *point* or *head*.

6. An *isthmus* is a narrow neck of land, connecting two larger portions.

7. An *ocean* is an expanse of water, of large extent. A *sea* is a like portion, but smaller. The term *sea* is also frequently applied to the entire body of water connected with the earth.

8. A *lake* is a portion of water entirely surrounded by land.

9. A *gulf* is a portion of water nearly surrounded by land. A *bay* is a like portion, but smaller. If a gulf be very large, it is often called a *mediterranean* or *inland sea*.

10. A *strait* is a narrow portion of water, communicating at its ends with two seas, or two parts of the same sea. A *channel* is a like portion, but larger.†

\* 1. The earth's surface consists of nearly 200 millions of square miles; and of this, it is probable that nearly 60 millions are land.

† 2. The terms *road*, *port*, *haven*, *harbour*, and *creek*, are also applied to small portions of the sea. A *road* affords anchorage at a short distance from land, with