

AN EASY AND CONCISE

INTRODUCTION

TO

MODERN GEOGRAPHY,



An enlarged Account of the British North American Colonies,

Particularly

LOWER AND UPPER CANADA,

FOR THE USE OF

CANADIAN SCHOOLS.

Quebec,

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the 23rd day of February, 1841.

Be it remembered that on the twenty-third day of February in the Year of Our Lord Christ one thousand eight hundred and forty one, William Cowan & Son have deposited in this Office, the Title of a work, which Title is in the words following, that is to say "An easy and concise introduction to Modern Geography, containing an enlarged account of the British North American Colonies, particularly Lower and Upper Canada, for the use of Canadian Schools" the right whereof they claim as proprietors.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIONS.

Q. WHAT is *geography* ?

A. Geography is a description of the earth.

Q. Of what form is the earth ?

A. The earth, or globe, is nearly round, like an orange.

Q. How large is the earth ?

A. The earth is about 25000 miles (a) in circumference and 8000 in diameter.

Q. How far is the earth from the sun ?

A. The earth is 96 millions of miles from the sun.

Q. Does the earth move ?

A. Yes, it has two motions, the one round the sun which it performs in a year, the other round its own axis every twenty-four hours.

Q. What is meant by the earth's *axis* ?

A. The earth's *axis* is an imaginary line from north to south passing through its centre.

Q. What is meant by the *poles* ?

A. The *poles* are the two extremities of the earth's axis. One is the *north* or *arctic* pole, the other the *south* or *antarctic* pole.

Q. What are the *cardinal points* ?

A. The *cardinal points* are the *north* or top of a map, the *east* or right-hand side, and *west* or left-hand side of the person facing a map.

Q. What is a *map* ?

(a). English miles, $69\frac{1}{2}$ to a degree.

A. A *map* is a picture of the earth or of a portion of the earth's surface.

Q. What is the *equator* ?

A. The *equator* is a circular line equally distant from the two poles, cutting the earth into halves, called *hemispheres*. One is the *northern*, the other the *southern* hemisphere.

Q. What is the *meridian* ?

A. The *meridian* is any circular line passing through the poles and cutting the earth into halves called the *eastern* and *western* hemispheres.

Q. What is *latitude* ?

A. *Latitude* is the distance on the meridian of any place to the equator : latitude is counted by degrees, 360 of which make a circle.

Q. What is *longitude* ?

A. *Longitude* is the distance between two meridians, counted on the equator or on any circle parallel to the equator.

Q. What are the *tropics* ?

A. The *tropics* are two small circles parallel to the equator on each side of it at the distance of 23 degrees and a half. The northern tropic is called the *tropic of Cancer* ; the southern one is called the *tropic of Capricorn*.

Q. What are the *polar circles* ?

A. The *polar circles* are two small circles situated $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees from the poles. The northern one is called the *arctic circle* ; the southern one, the *antarctic circle*.

Q. What are the *zones* ?

A. The *zones* are circular bands into which the surface of the earth is divided by the tropics and polar circles. The wide band between the tropics is called the *torrid zone* ; the two between the tropics and polar circles are called the *temperate zones* ; and the

two between the poles and polar circles, the *frigid* or *frozen zones*.

Q. What is a *continent* ?

A. A *continent* is a vast extent of land not separated by water.

Q. What is an *island* ?

A. An *island* is a smaller tract of land surrounded by water.

Q. What is a *peninsula* ?

A. A *peninsula* is a tract of land almost surrounded by water.

Q. What is an *isthmus* ?

A. An *isthmus* is a narrow neck of land which joins a peninsula to the continent or to the main land.

Q. What is a *cape* or *promontory* ?

A. A *cape* is a point of land stretching out into the sea. A high cape is called a *promontory*.

Q. What is a *mountain* ?

A. A *mountain* is a mass of rocks elevated above the surface of the globe. When several mountains are joined together they form a *chain*.

Q. What is a *volcano* ?

A. A *volcano* is a mountain which vomits fire and smoke and burning matter called *lava*.

Q. What is a *desert* ?

A. A *desert* is a very large tract of barren land usually sandy.

Q. What is a *coast* ?

A. A *coast* is a tract of land bordering on the sea.

Q. What is the *sea* or *ocean* ?

A. The *sea* or *ocean* is that immense extent of salt water which covers three quarters of the globe we inhabit (a).

(a). More strictly speaking, a *sea* is a very large body of water nearly surrounded by land.

Q. What is a *gulph* or *bay* ?

A. A *gulph* or *bay* is a part of the ocean extending into the land. A bay is generally smaller than a gulph (a).

Q. What is a *strait* ?

A. A *strait* is a narrow passage of water between two portions of land. A wider passage is called a channel.

Q. What is a *sound* ?

A. It is a strait so shallow that its depth may be measured with a lead and line.

Q. What is a *port* or *harbour* ?

A. A *harbour* is a small bay where ships may anchor. A *port* is a bay fitted up to lodge ships safely, and repair them, if needful.

Q. What is a *lake* ?

A. A *lake* is a large body of water surrounded by land. A very small lake is called a *pond*.

Q. What is a *river* ?

A. When several small streams unite they form a *river*, which carries their waters to a larger river or to the sea.

Q. What is meant by the *source* and *mouth* of a river ?

A. The *source* of a river is the place from which it runs; the place where it empties is called its *mouth*.

Q. Which is the *right* and which the *left bank* or *shore* of a river ?

A. The *right bank* is on the right hand of the person descending a river; the other is the left bank or shore.

Q. What is a *canal* ?

(a) There are also many *bays* formed by lakes, and large rivers. Small bays are called *Creeks*, *Coves*, *Havens*, *Harbours*, &c.

A. A *canal* is a sort of artificial river made to afford an easy and cheap conveyance in boats and small vessels from one part of a country to another.

Q. Which are the great divisions of the earth?

A. The earth is divided into five great portions, namely : America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceanica (a).

Q. Which are the great divisions of the Ocean?

A. The Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Southern or Antarctic Ocean, and the Northern or Arctic Ocean.

Q. What are the names of the principal inland seas?

A. They are four in number, namely : the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Caspian Sea.

Q. What is the population of the globe?

A. 800 millions of inhabitants, who belong to three races, the white, the yellow, and the black, and to four religions, namely : Christians, Jews, Mahometans and Pagans.

(a). America is called the *Western Continent* or *New World*; Europe, Asia and Africa, the *Eastern Continent* or *Old World*; Oceanica comprises an immense extent of islands, one of which, *New Holland*, is the largest on the globe.

AMERICA.

Q. How is America bounded (a) ?

A. America is bounded N. by the Arctic Ocean ; S., by the straits of Magellan ; E., by the Atlantic, and W., by the Pacific Ocean.

Q. When and by whom was America discovered ?

A. In 1492, by Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, under the patronage of Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Spain.

Q. For what is America distinguished ?

A. For the variety of its climate and productions, the number and magnitude of its rivers and lakes, and for its inexhaustible mines of gold and silver.

Q. What is the population of America ?

A. About 45 millions, comprising 27 millions of catholics, 17 millions of protestants and one million of unconverted Indians.

Q. How is America divided ?

A. Into two continents, called North and South America, which are joined together by the isthmus of Darien or Panama.

NORTH AMERICA.

Q. What are the principal chains of mountains in North America ?

(a) The boundaries of countries will generally be omitted, as they can easily be traced by the pupil on any good map—the same remark applies to several other details, as bays, gulphs, straits, capes, &c.

A. The Rocky mountains, which extend from the Frozen Ocean through Mexico to S. A., and the Alleghans, which extend from Florida to the gulph of St. Lawrence.

Q. Name the five great lakes of North America ?

A. Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie and Ontario.

Q. Name the four principal rivers of North America ?

A. The *St. Lawrence*, which carries the waters of the five great lakes and of many tributary rivers into the Atlantic Ocean ; the *Mississippi*, which runs through the United States into the gulph of Mexico ; the *MacKenzie* river, which rises in the Rocky Mountains and flows into the Arctic Ocean, and the *Columbia* river, which takes its source in the same mountains and flows westward into the Pacific Ocean.

Q. Which is the largest river in North America ?

A. The *St. Lawrence*, which is also celebrated for the beauty of its scenery, the clearness and salubrity of its waters, the vast abundance of fish it produces, and for the falls of Niagara, the grandest in the world. Ships of the line can sail up this mighty stream as far as Quebec, and merchant vessels of 350 tons as far as Montreal, which is 900 miles from the Ocean.

Q. What are the chief divisions of North America ?

A. British North America, Russian America, the United States, Texas, Mexico and Guatimala, to which may be added the West Indies and Greenland.

BRITISH AMERICA.

Q. What is the extent of British America ?

A. British America extends north to Baffin's Bay and the Arctic Ocean ; east, to the Atlantic ; south,

to the United States territory ; west, to Russian America and the Pacific Ocean.

Q. How is British North America divided ?

A. Into Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland and New Britain.

Q. What is the population of British North America ?

A. About two millions, including fifty thousand Indians.

CANADA.

Q. Who first discovered Canada ?

A. Jacques Cartier, a native of St. Malo in France, entered and named the gulph St. Lawrence on the 10th. Aug. 1534, and in the following year sailed up the river to Quebec and Montreal, then Indian villages.

Q. Describe the aboriginal inhabitants of Canada ?

A. Like all the North American Indians, except the Esquimaux, they were of a copper complexion, tall, straight and capable of enduring great fatigue. They were hospitable and generous to their friends, cruel and implacable to their enemies. Their principal employments were hunting, fishing and war.

Q. What European nation first settled in Canada ?

A. The French, under Monsieur de Champlain, who founded Quebec in 1608, and entered into a treaty of friendship with the neighbouring Indians.

Q. When did Canada become an English colony ?

A. Canada was ceded to England by the treaty of Paris in 1763, four years after the siege of Quebec, which surrendered to General Wolfe's army in Sept. 1759.

Q. How is Canada divided ?

A. By an act of the Imperial Parliament, Canada was divided in 1791 into two provinces, called Upper and Lower Canada, each having a separate governor or lieutenant-governor, an executive council, a legislative council, and a representative assembly. But in the year 1840, an act was passed to reunite the two provinces with various changes in the laws and constitution.

Q. What was hitherto the line of separation between Upper and Lower Canada ?

A. The Ottawa river and the southern limits of Ottawa and Vaudreuil counties.

LOWER CANADA.

Q. Name the districts of Lower Canada ?

A. Quebec, Montreal, Three Rivers, Gaspé, and St. Francis.

Q. Name the counties of Lower Canada ?

A. On the north shore, descending : Vaudreuil, Ottawa, Two Mountains, Montreal, Terrebonne, L'Assomption, Berthier, St. Maurice, Champlain, Portneuf, Quebec, Montmorency, Saguenay ; on the south shore, ascending : Gaspé, Bonaventure, Rimouski, Kamouraska, L'Ilet, Bellechasse, Dorchester, Beauce, Megantic, Lotbinière, Nicolet, Yamaska, Drummond, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, Missisquoi, Shefford, St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, Richelieu, Verchères, Chambly, Laprairie, l'Acadie, Beauharnois : in all 38 counties (a).

Q. How are the counties of Lower Canada subdivided ?

(a) The Union Act has united Orleans to Montmorency county, and Lachenaie to L'Assomption.

A. The counties bordering on the St Lawrence and some others originally settled by the French are for the most part composed of Seignories, each of which commonly forms a parish. The counties situated in the rear of the preceding ones are divided into *townships*, and are settled chiefly by emigrants from Great-Britain, Ireland and the United States.

Q. What are the principal mountains of Lower Canada ?

A. A chain, called the *heights of land*, extends from the Vermont frontier to Cape Rosier, on the gulph St. Lawrence, and is supposed to be in some points 5000 feet above the level of the sea ; another chain extends from the Labrador coast to the source of the Ottawa, and thence westward to the Rocky Mountains. The north shore of the St. Lawrence below Quebec is mountainous. There are also several detached mountains in the district of Montreal, as Belcœil and Yamaska mountains, Rougemont, Mount Johnson, &c.

Q. Name the principal rivers of Lower Canada ?

A. On the north shore, the Ottawa, the St. Maurice, the Saguenay, and several large rivers further down ; on the south shore, the Chambly or Richelieu, the St Francis, and the Chaudière, besides many smaller streams too numerous to be mentioned.

Q. Are the rivers which empty into the St Lawrence navigable ?

A. They are nearly all obstructed by rapids and falls, some of which are very beautiful, particularly the Montmorency and Chaudière falls, near Quebec, and the falls of the Manitou river between the Seven Islands and Mingan. The Saguenay is navigable for large ships to Chicoutimi, and the Richelieu for steamboats from Sorel to Chambly village.

Q. Are there any canals in Lower Canada ?

A. There are two : the Lachine canal, between the city of Montreal and Lachine village, and the Chambly canal, which is not completed.

Q. Name the principal lakes of Lower Canada ?

A. On the north side of the St. Lawrence are lakes Temiscaming, Abbittibi, and St. John ; on the south side, a part of lake Champlain, called Missiskouï Bay, lakes Memphremagog, Megantic and Temiscouata ; the St. Lawrence itself forms three, called lakes St. Francis, St. Louis and St. Peter, and the Ottawa several others, the largest of which is lake of the Two Mountains.

Q. Name the principal islands of Lower Canada ?

A. The largest is Anticosti, situated at the mouth of the St. Lawrence—it is a cold, desolate place, where vast quantities of codfish and salmon are caught every year, during the summer months. The next in size are the rich and fertile islands of Montreal, Jesus, and Orleans. There are several others sufficiently inhabited to form parishes, as : Ile-Perrot, Ile-Bizarre, Ile-du-Pads, Crane-Island, Ile-aux-Coudres, &c, &c. We may mention two more, Ile-aux-Noix and the Island of St. Helen, which, though small, are very important, being strong forts, erected, the former to command the passage from lake Champlain, the latter to defend the town and harbour of Montreal.

Q. What sort of climate has Lower Canada ?

A. The winters are very long and severe, the summers short and for a few days excessively warm—both seasons however are healthy and agreeable even to strangers. The last spring frost is at the beginning of May. The snow leaves the ground about a fortnight earlier at Montreal than at Quebec, and 8 days earlier still in the eastern townships. Navigation on the St. Lawrence is generally closed from the end of

November till the end of April. The climate is milder, but damp and foggy, in the district of Gaspé.

Q. What are the chief productions of the soil in Lower Canada ?

A. Wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, flax, pease, Indian corn, potatoes and various other vegetables. Indian corn thrives best in the district of Montreal and the eastern townships.

The greater part of the soil is still covered with forests of pine, spruce, maple, oak, walnut, cedar and other valuable trees. From the maple 30,000 quintals of sugar are made yearly in March and April.

Q. What are the most common kinds of fruit in Lower Canada ?

A. Apples, plums, melons, cherries, wild grapes and a vast abundance of berries. The Montreal apples and pears are reputed the best in North America.

Q. Name the wild animals of Lower Canada ?

A. The most remarkable are moose, deer, bears, wolves, lynxes, wild cats, foxes, hares, beavers, otters, martens, &c.

Q. Name the most common birds ?

A. In the woods are found eagles, hawks and other birds of prey, partridges, woodcocks, wild pigeons, jays, &c. ; in the fields and meadows, nightingales, larks, goldfinches, buntings, wrens, hummingbirds, crows, starlings, &c. ; on the lakes and rivers, particularly on the St. Lawrence, are wild ducks and geese, bustards, snipes and a variety of other birds of passage.

Q. Has Lower Canada any important mineral riches ?

A. The most important yet discovered is an excellent quality of iron, of which nearly all the stoves, ploughs, and axes of the country are made. It abounds chiefly along the St. Maurice and Batiscan rivers and

at St. Paul's Bay. There are also mineral springs, but none as yet have acquired much celebrity.

Q. What are the principal exports and imports of Lower Canada?

A. The chief exports are lumber and ashes, grain and flour, furs, fish and oil, salt provisions, &c. ; the imports are spirits and wines, dry goods and hardware, tea, sugar and molasses, coffee, tobacco, salt, books and stationary, &c. (*a*).

Q. Name the principal articles of Canadian manufacture?

A. Woolen and linen stuffs for domestic use ; iron-ware, pot and pearl ashes, whiskey, deals and staves, maple sugar, earthenware, nails, &c. The iron founderies of Montreal and Three Rivers are perhaps not inferior to any on the continent of America.

Q. Describe the chief towns of Lower Canada?

A. **QUEBEC**, the capital of British America, is situated on a promontory formed by the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles river, and is esteemed one of the strongest fortresses in the world. The views from its citadel and ramparts are very beautiful. Before the city is a spacious harbour and basin where hundreds of vessels may lie safe at anchor. Quebec is divided into two parts, called the Upper and Lower town. The former contains most of the public buildings, the latter is the principal seat of commercial transactions. The houses are generally built of stone in the city and of wood in the suburbs. The present population is about 36,000.

Montreal is the next in importance, being the centre of trade with Upper Canada and the United States.

(*a*) The productions, exports and imports will be named as nearly as possible in the order of their value.

The population of the two cities is about equal. The parish church of Montreal is a noble structure and one of the largest in America. It is built of a very fine sort of stone, which abounds in that vicinity.

The other towns and villages are small in population, but are agreeably situated on the St. Lawrence or on its tributary streams, as Three Rivers, Sorel or William Henry, Laprairie, St. Hyacinthe, St. John's, l'Assomption, Terrebonne, Napierville, Stanstead, Charlestown, Sherbrooke, Nicolet, &c.

Q. What is the population of Lower Canada ?

A. About 550,000 inhabitants of French origin ; 100,000 English, Irish and Scotch ; 45,000 Anglo-Americans, and 5,000 Indians : in all, 700,000.

Q. What parts of Lower Canada do the Indians inhabit ?

A. The Iroquois live in villages at Caghnawaga and St. Régis above Montreal ; the Iroquois and Algonquins at Lake of the Two Mountains ; the Abenakis at St. Francis near lake St. Peter ; the Hurons at Lorette near Quebec, and the Micmacs at Ristigouche near Chaleurs Bay. The Montagnez and the remnants of some other tribes lead a wandering life among the northern mountains, lakes and rivers. The village Indians cultivate maize and a few vegetables, but the greater part of their time is employed in fishing and hunting. They receive from the government yearly presents of fire arms, powder, blankets, &c. (a).

UPPER CANADA.

Q. How is Upper Canada divided ?

A. Into twelve districts, viz : the Eastern, Ottawa,

(a) For further details, see "Géographie Moderne," 3rd edition, Quebec 1839.

Bathurst, Johnstown, Midland, Prince Edward, Newcastle, Home, Niagara, Gore, London, and Western. The districts are divided into counties and these into townships.

Q. What is the face of the country in Upper Canada?

A Generally level, except a ridge of highlands north of lake Ontario, and a chain of granitic mountains along lake Superior and part of lake Huron. The settlements are situated chiefly near the great lakes; the rest of the country is covered with native forests.

Q. Name the lakes of Upper Canada?

A. One half of the five great lakes of North America belongs to Upper Canada, besides lakes Nipissing, Simcoe, Ste. Claire and many others. Lake Superior is 1500 miles in circumference and contains the largest body of fresh water in the known world (a).

Q. Where are the falls of Niagara situated?

A. Nine miles below the outlet of lake Erie: the immense mass of the St. Lawrence there precipitates itself from the height of 160 feet into a fathomless abyss out of which nothing that goes over the falls is ever seen to rise again. The roaring of this tremendous cataract is often heard 40 miles off, and the clouds of vapour that surround it are visible at a much greater distance.

Q. Name the principal canals of Upper Canada?

A. The Welland canal, connecting lake Erie with lake Ontario; the Rideau canal between lake Ontario and the Ottawa, and the Grenville canal, opposite the *Long Sault* rapids. The Welland canal is one of the most important works of the kind yet executed in America (b).

(a) To the five great lakes, we should perhaps add Slave and Winnipeg lakes, which are supposed to be next in size to lake Huron.

(b) The Welland canal is $44\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, the Rideau 133 miles, including the lakes through which it runs, and the Grenville canal 7 miles and three quarters. E2

Q. What is the climate of Upper Canada ?

A. The climate is milder than that of Lower Canada. The air is healthy, except sometimes in the immediate vicinity of the lakes, where strangers are exposed to the fever and ague. Hurricanes and violent storms are frequent along the lake shores.

Q. What are the chief productions of Upper Canada?

A. Wheat, Indian corn, rye, barley, oats, pease and potatoes. The most common fruits are apples, plums, pears, cherries, melons, and, in the southern districts, grapes, apricots and peaches. The lakes abound with fish and game. Rattlesnakes are common in the islands. Iron is the only important mineral.

Q. What are the principal exports of Upper Canada?

A. Wheat and flour, timber, ashes, salt meat, and furs. The greater part of these exports are shipped at Montreal and Quebec—a considerable quantity also goes to New York by the grand Erie canal.

Q. Are there any large towns in Upper Canada ?

A. The most commercial is Kingston, which has a strong fort and a good harbour, where the lake Ontario vessels spend the winter. It is well built of stone and has about 5000 inhabitants. Toronto, formerly *York*, has a fine harbour. The other towns are Niagara, Brockville, Prescott, Queenstown, Bytown, &c, &c.

Q. What is the population of Upper Canada ?

A. 350,000 inhabitants, chiefly of English, Irish, Scotch and Anglo-American descent. The most numerous religious creeds are the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Church of England and Catholic. The northern limits of the country are occupied by the remnants of several Indian tribes.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Q. What do you remark on the situation of New Brunswick ?

A. The province of New Brunswick is surrounded by numerous bays, rivers and harbours, which render its position very favorable to navigation and commerce. It is besides traversed by the St. John's, a large and beautiful river which rises in Canada and flows into the bay of Fundy.

Q. What are the climate and productions of New Brunswick ?

A. They resemble those of Lower Canada. Timber and the produce of the fisheries are the chief articles of exportation.

Q. Name the principal towns of New Brunswick ?

A. St. John's, the former capital and by much the largest town ; Fredericton, the present seat of government, and St. Andrews.

Q. What is the population of New Brunswick ?

A. About 150,000, composed of the descendants of American loyalists, emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, and Acadians or descendants of the original French settlers. There are also 5 or 6 hundred Micmacs and a few negro families.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Q. Describe the face of the country in Nova Scotia ?

A. The seacoast presents a dreary and rugged aspect and the interior is in many places rocky. The most agreeable and fertile parts are the vicinity of the lakes and rivers.

Q. What are the climate and productions of Nova Scotia ?

A. The climate is cold, damp and foggy, but very healthful. Wheat does not always ripen—other sorts of grain and potatoes succeed well and are extensively cultivated. There are many orchards. The province contains valuable coal and iron mines, gypsum, grind-stones, slate, &c. The fisheries occupy a large number of the inhabitants. The principal exports are fish, oil, seal skins; timber, gypsum, grind-stones, lime, and coal (a).

Q Name the chief towns of Nova Scotia?

A. Halifax, the capital, is a fine city, with one of the best and largest harbours in America, being capable of containing 1000 vessels and easily accessible at all seasons of the year. The port of Halifax is the principal station of the British Navy on this side of the Atlantic, and the centre of trade between the northern colonies, the United States and the West Indies. The other towns are Liverpool, Pictou, Windsor, &c.

Q. What is the population of Nova Scotia?

A. About 180,000, divided, as regards origin and religion nearly like that of New Brunswick.

CAPE BRETON.

Q. Describe the island of Cape Breton?

A. Cape Breton composes a county of Nova Scotia, from which it is separated by the Gut of Canso. Its coasts are rough and mountainous, indented on the east side by many bays and harbours; in the interior is a vast lake, called the *Bras d'Or*. Pastures are abundant. The climate is much like that of Gaspé, but colder and more foggy. There are very valuable coal mines,

(a) Next to these are: salt beef and pork, butter and cheese, horned cattle, barley and oats, potatoes, furs, apples, &c.

gypsum, iron and red ocre. The inhabitants are principally engaged in the fisheries and in working the coal mines. The exports are fish, coal, gypsum, horned-cattle and butter. Chief towns, Arichat and Sydney. Population, 40,000 Scotch Highlanders, Acadians, and Irish catholics. There are also 300 Micmacs.

A. What have you to remark on St. Paul's and Sable islands. ?

A. The former is a dangerous chain of rocks, the latter a sandbank, where hundreds of vessels have perished on their voyage to Canada or on their way home. Light houses are now kept up on each of them.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

Q. Describe Prince Edward's Island ?

A. This fine and fertile island has an even soil, which produces good crops of wheat and other sorts of grain. Its 40,000 inhabitants, chiefly Highlanders, Acadians and American loyalists, are for the most part engaged in agricultural pursuits. They export grain, cattle, pork, butter, timber, fish and potatoes. The cattle and provisions are sent to Newfoundland and Halifax. Prince Edward's Island is the smallest of the North American provinces.—The lieutenant-governor resides at Charlottetown, one of the best ports on the Gulph of St. Lawrence.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Q. By whom was Newfoundland discovered, and for what is it celebrated ?

A. Newfoundland was discovered in 1497 by Sebastian Cabot, a native of Bristol in England, and has ever since been famed for the codfisheries on its coasts

and on the neighbouring Banks, or shoals, which are visited yearly by more than 3000 vessels from Great Britain, France and the United States.

Q. Describe Newfoundland?

A. The shores are high and rocky, forming numerous deep bays and harbours, along which the fishermen have built their huts. The interior is covered with hills, lakes, marshes and small rivers. Fir, birch poplar, cedar and cherry trees compose the forests. Wild grass, berries and grapes abound every where on the island. The climate is severely cold, the summer short, and thick fogs continue throughout the greater part of the year. Potatoes and a few other vegetables are cultivated, but not enough to supply the wants of the inhabitants, who are all engaged in the fisheries. Their exports are fish, oil, sealskins, furs and a little timber. The population is about 75,000, chiefly Irish catholics.—St. John's, the capital of the province, is built of wood, and has been repeatedly nearly destroyed by fire. The most important villages are Grace Harbour, Ferryland, Plaisance and Bonavista.

Q. What animal is peculiar to Newfoundland?

A. A very fine race of dogs, remarkable for their size, their long and silky hair and their large webbed feet which render them excellent swimmers. Their fidelity and value are known all over the world.

NEW BRITAIN.

Q. What countries are comprised under the name of New Britain?

A. New Britain comprehends four principal divisions, viz; 1o, the peninsula of Labrador; 2o, the Hudson's Bay Territory, which, according to the

Company's charter, includes all the lands watered by lakes and rivers emptying into Hudson's Bay or Straits (a) ; 3o, the British Northwest Territory, extending west from the Hudson's Bay Territory to Russian America and the Pacific Ocean ; 4o, the Arctic Regions, situated north of the two last mentioned divisions.

Q. Who are the inhabitants of Labrador ?

A. The interior, which resembles that of Newfoundland, but colder and more desolate, is occupied by about 1,200 Esquimaux ; on the coasts there are a few small fishing and furtrading establishments, with a fixed population of 3,000 English, Irish, Jersey men, Canadians, &c. : but in summer there are more than 50,000 British, French and American fishermen. Vast numbers of seals and whales are caught in those quarters.

Q. What is the general appearance of the country between Hudson's Bay and the Rocky Mountains ?

A. It is in general an immense extent of plains, called *prairies*, lakes and marshes. Timber, even fire-wood, is scarcely to be found in many places. The climate is too cold for grain, except near the territory of the United States. The prairies in that direction are filled with buffaloes, deer, &c. Beavers, otters, lynxes, martens, foxes, and other fur animals abound every where. The annual value of furs exported from Hudson's Bay alone is estimated at £200,000 sterling.

Q. What is the chief trading post of the Hudson's Bay Territory ?

A. York Factory, at the mouth of Nelson river, where the governor of the Company resides. There

(a). The 49th parallel of latitude is now supposed to be the most southern limit of all New Britain. See "*Géographie Moderne*," *Appendix*, Nos. I and II.

are also several other small posts, called *forts*, along Hudson's Bay and west of it. On the Red River, which empties into lake Winnipeg, is a settlement of 3,000 whites and *Bois-Brûlés*, founded by Lord Selkirk.

Q. To whom does the British Northwest Territory belong ?

A. The right of soil belongs to the Crown—the fur trade was for many years possessed by a company of Montreal merchants : but in 1821 they agreed to join their stock to that of the Hudson's Bay Company, which now maintains an exclusive privilege of trading with the Indians throughout all New Britain, the Labrador coast excepted.

Q. Who inhabit the Arctic Regions ?

A. A few wandering tribes of Esquimaux are scattered over the Arctic Regions. They subsist solely by fishing and hunting. Their principal food is the flesh of seals, morses and deer. Their habitations are in summer tents made of skins, and in winter round cabins of ice. The white bear is their most dangerous enemy.

Q. What is the total population of New Britain, east of the Rocky Mountains ?

A. Including Labrador, about 10,000 whites and *Bois-Brûlés*, 9,000 Esquimaux, and 30,000 *Cris*, *Sauteux*, *Assiniboines* and other Indians.

OREGON TERRITORY.

Q. What is known of the Oregon Territory ?

A. The Oregon Territory is situated west of the Rocky Mountains between the Mexican Territories and Russian America. Little is yet known of the interior : the soil along the numerous branches of the Columbia

river is fertile and covered with heavy timber—many parts are mountainous and barren. There are also extensive prairies, filled with herds of buffaloes, deer, &c. The climate is mild and healthy. The population is supposed to be 80,000 Indians and a few whites and *Bois-Brûlés* at the fur trading posts, the principal of which is Vancouver.

Q. To whom does the Oregon Territory belong?

A. The right of soil is claimed by both the British and American governments: the fur trade is at present almost entirely in the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company.

GREENLAND.

Q. Describe Greenland?

A. Greenland is one of the coldest and most desolate countries on the globe, exhibiting little except rocks and mountains of ice and snow. The most common animals are reindeer, dogs resembling wolves, hares, foxes, and white bears. The seas abound in whales, seals, morses, porpoises, and many valuable sorts of fish. The island belongs to Denmark, and is inhabited by about 10,000 Esquimaux and 11,000 whites, chiefly of Norwegian descent.

RUSSIAN AMERICA.

Q. Describe the Russian possessions in North America?

A. Russian America, though a cold, dreary region, has a milder climate than New Britain under the same parallels of latitude. There are many lofty mountains—the forests in the southern parts contain trees of an

enormous size. Whales and all sorts of fish abound along the coasts, which are frequented by a number of vessels from England and the United States. The fur trade produces yearly £40,000 to the Russian American Company. The population is composed of 2,000 whites of Russian descent, and 50,000 Indians, one third of whom have embraced Christianity. New Archangel on the straits of Sitka is the residence of the Russian governor.—The Indian tribes are constantly at war with each other—they are distinguished by the names of animals, as the *Bear*, the *Wolfe*, the *Eagle*, the *Crow* tribe, &c.

UNITED STATES.

Q. How many States belong to the American Union?

A. Twenty-six, viz : six Eastern, four Middle, eight Southern, and eight Western States.

Eastern States : Maine, Newhampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut.

Middle States : New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware.

Southern States : Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana.

Western States : Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas.

Territories : Florida, Huron or North West, Missouri, Oregon.

Federal district : Columbia.

Q. What are the climate and productions of the United States ?

A. The climate varies greatly : in general it is mild and temperate, but towards the south, particularly near the sea-coast, the summer heats are long and oppressive, often producing epidemic diseases. The Western States too are occasionally visited by dan-

gerous fevers. The chief productions of the Eastern States are grass, indian corn, rye, wheat, oats, barley, and apples : to these the Middle States add much larger crops of wheat, and various kinds of fruit. Maryland, Virginia and the Western States furnish a still greater proportion of wheat and immense quantities of tobacco. The Southern and South Western States, besides wheat and tobacco, raise extensive crops of cotton, rice and sugar.

Q. Name the chief mineral riches of the United States ?

A. Gold, lead, coal, iron, marble, slate and several highly celebrated mineral springs.

Q. What is to be remarked of the commerce of the United States ?

A. Their commerce with all parts of the world is exceeded by that of no other country except Great Britain, and their interior trade is greatly facilitated by numerous canals and railroads. Cotton, flour and grain ; tobacco, timber and ashes ; fish, rice, and salt provisions, are the most important articles of exportation.

Q. Name the principal cities of the United States ?

A. New York is the largest city in America and one of the most commercial in the world. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and New Orleans are the four next in size. The seat of government is Washington, on the Potomac river (a).

Q. What is the population of the United States ?

A. About 17 millions, including two millions of negro slaves, besides nearly half a million of Indians, who inhabit chiefly along the Mississippi, the Missouri

(a) For further details see "*Géographie Moderne.*"

and their tributary branches. Of the many religious denominations, the most numerous are Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Catholics, and Protestant Episcopalians.

Q. What is the form of government in the United States ?

A. The government is that of a federal republic. Each State is independent, and has a separate executive and legislature ; but the defence of the country, the regulation of commerce and all foreign relations are entrusted to the president and Congress.

TEXAS.

Q. What are the origin, extent and population of the new republic of Texas ?

A. This republic was founded in 1836, by an army of adventurers, chiefly Americans, under the command of General Houston. It comprises that part of the Mexican States and Territories situated north of the Rio Bravo del Norte. The present fixed population is about 160,000, besides a much larger number of independent Indians. The seat of government is Galveston.

Q. What are the most valuable productions of the Texian republic ?

A. Cotton and indian corn : but the soil and climate are well fitted for all the productions of the southern and western sections of the United States. The *prairies* are filled with herds of wild horses and oxen.

MEXICO, OR, THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC (a).

Q. How is the Mexican republic divided ?

A. This interesting country is subject to frequent

(a) Formerly, New Spain,

changes in its form of government and civil divisions : when the revolution broke out in Texas, there were 19 Mexican States, 4 Territories and a Federal district.

Q. For what is Mexico remarkable ?

A. For its lofty mountains, which spread out into immense high plains, called *Table Lands*, and for its precious mines which have produced nine tenths of all the silver specie current on the globe, besides a vast amount of gold. Five of the mountains are volcanoes, and many are covered with perpetual snow.

Q. What are the climate and productions of Mexico ?

A. The climate is hot and very unhealthy near the sea-coasts, temperate and constantly mild on the *Table Lands*. The productions are all those of the United States, besides indigo, logwood, mahogany, cochineal, jalap and other medicinal plants, and a variety of tropical fruits. Indian corn, bananas, and manioc (*a*) are the principal food of the inhabitants : a very common sort of drink used by them is *pulque*, made from the juice of a plant called the *agave*. The northern provinces are barren for want of moisture.

Q. What are the exports of the Mexican republic ?

A. Silver and gold, cochineal, sugar, flour and hides are the principal articles of exportation.

Q. Name the capital and chief cities of the Mexican republic ?

A. The capital is Mexico, the most ancient and beautiful city in America—it is elevated 7,400 feet above the level of the Ocean, and has the richest

(a) See "*Géographie Moderne.*"

cathedral and mint in the world (*a*). The next cities in size and importance are Guadalajara, Puebla, Guanajuato and Zacatecas. The principal sea-ports are Acapulco and Vera-Cruz, both subject to the yellow fever and other fatal diseases.

Q. What are the population and religion of the Mexican republic?

A. The population is about eight millions, and comprises a frightful mixture of the white, black and copper-coloured races. Of the pure or natives Indians there are about two millions and a half. All profess the catholic faith, which predominates in Mexico, Guatemala, the West-Indies and South America.

The State of Yucatan, situated between the Bays of Campeachy and Honduras, has of late separated from the Mexican republic. Its capital is Merida, and its population 500,000. The English have a few settlements on the coasts, whence they export great quantities of logwood.

GUATIMALA, OR, THE REPUBLIC OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

Q. Describe the republic of Central America?

A. The climate and productions of the soil are much like those of Mexico. There are vast herds of wild cattle.—Indigo, cochineal, dye-woods, mahogany and hides are the principal exports.—The mountains exhibit more than twenty volcanoes, which are constantly burning.—Earthquakes are common. Capital, San Sal-

(*a*) Mexico has a splendid school of mines, a university, a botanical garden, a medical school, an academy of the fine arts and several manufactures. Jewellery is carried on here to great perfection. The churches, couvents, and charitable institutions are numerous.—Nearly the same remarks apply to all the large cities on this continent situated south of the United States.

vador. The total population is two millions, the greater part of whom are civilized Indians.

WEST INDIES.

Q. How are the West Indies divided ?

A. These immensely valuable islands may be divided into four classes, viz : 1st, the Bahamas ; 2nd, the Greater Antilles, or, Cuba, Hayti, Jamaica and Portorico ; 3rd, the Caribbean Islands ; 4th, the Leeward and Windward Islands, and the Lesser Antilles, situated (the latter) along the coast of South America.

Q. To whom do the West India Islands belong ?

A. With the exception of Hayti, formerly St. Domingo, which is now an independent republic, inhabited by a million of negroes, they all belong to some of the European powers, chiefly to Great Britain, Spain, and France.

THE SPANISH possess Cuba, Portorico and St. Margaritta—Population 2,100,000, of whom 350,000 are whites.

THE FRENCH Guadaloupe, Descada, Marie-Galante and Martinico—Pop. 210,000.

THE DANES St. Thomas, St. John's and Santa-Cruz—Pop. 50,000.

THE DUTCH St. Eustatius, St. Martin's, Saba and Curaçoa—Pop. 65,000.

THE SWEDES St. Bartholomew—Pop. 16,000.

THE ENGLISH Jamaica, the Bahamas and all the remaining important islands—Pop. 875,000, of whom not more than 35,000 are whites.

Q. What is the climate of the West Indies ?

The climate is mild and delightful in winter ; extremely hot, and, in most of the islands, dangerous to strangers in summer. Both seasons are preceded by heavy and continual rains. Dreadful storms and hurricanes prevail in August, September and October.

Q. What are the productions of the West Indies?

A. The first in importance are sugar, coffee, cotton, indigo and spices, which from these islands are exported to all parts of Europe and America. The next are tobacco, maize or indian corn, yams or sweet potatoes, precious woods, cocoa, various sorts of fine fruits, medicinal plants, &c. Here, as in Mexico and in all tropical regions, are found many species of beautiful birds.

Q. Name the two most important cities of the West India islands?

A. Havanna, the capital of Cuba, famed for its snuff and cigars, is by much the largest city in the West Indies. It is very strongly fortified and has a safe harbour capable of containing 1000 vessels, with so narrow a channel that they can only enter one at a time. The next town is Kingston, the capital of Jamaica.

Q. What is the total population of the West Indies?

A. Above 3,000,000, of whom one half-million are whites and one half-million slaves: the remaining two millions and more are free negroes and mulattoes.

Q. Where are the Bermudas situated?

A. In the Atlantic Ocean, between the West Indies and Newfoundland. They are about 400 in number, all of difficult access; the largest is the island of St. George. Their 10,000 inhabitants cultivate tobacco, legumes, cedar plantations and fruit trees. The climate is fine and healthful. The Bermudas are a station of the British Navy.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Q. What were the former divisions of South America, and what part now belongs to Europeans?

A. Until the beginning of the nineteenth century, Spain possessed Terra Firma (since *Columbia*) Peru,

Chili and Paraguay ; Brazil was a Portuguese colony ; Guyana was divided between Spain, Portugal, France, Holland and England ; the central part was, as it still is, inhabited by the Amazons, and the southern extremity by the Araucanos and Patagonians. All these countries are now independent, except a small part of Guyana, which belongs to the English, Dutch and French.

Q. How is South America now divided ?

A. The following are the new divisions of this great peninsula : North, Columbia, which has recently formed itself into the republics of Panama, Venezuela, New Grenada and Equator ; north-east, Guyana, or, the three colonies of Demarara, Surinam and Cayenne ; east and in the centre, the Brazilian empire ; south-east and south, the Argentine Republic (*United Provinces*), Paraguay, Uruguay and Patagonia ; west, Peru, Bolivia and Chili.

SUMMARY OF SOUTH AMERICA.

COUNTRIES.	CAPITAL.	POPULATION.	GOVERNMENT.
New Grenada.	Bogota	1,600,000	Republic.
Panama.....	Panama.....	100,000	"
Venezuela....	Caraccas	900,000	"
Equator.....	Quito.....	600,000	"
Guyana {	English... Georgetown..	80,000	Colony.
	Dutch... Paramaribo...	75,000	"
	French... Cayenne.....	75,000	"
Brazil.....	Rio Janeiro...	5,000,000	Monarchy.
Argentine Rep.	Buenos Ayres..	2,000,000	Republic.
Paraguay	Assumption....	900,000	"
Uruguay.....	Monte Video..	150,000	"
Patagonia....	200,000	Savage.
Peru.....	Lima.....	1,700,000	Republic.
Bolivia.....	Chuquisaca..	1,500,000	"
Chili.....	Santiago.....	1,500,000	"

Q. For what is the South American continent distinguished ?

A. For its fertility ; the prodigious height of its mountains, many of which are volcanoes ; the immense extent of its vallies and plains ; the size and grandeur of its rivers, one of which, the Amazon, is the largest in the world ; its mines of gold, silver and diamonds, and for its valuable indigenous productions, particularly drugs and dye-woods.

Q. Give a general idea of the climate of South America ?

A. The climate varies with the latitude, and still more with the elevation of places above the level of the sea ; the coldest winter and the hottest summer are often to be met with in a single day, by travelling up or down the mighty chain of the Andes. A perpetual spring prevails at a certain height on their declivities. In general between the tropics, the air is excessively warm and unhealthy near the coasts and in the deep vallies of the interior : beyond the tropic of Capricorn it becomes cooler and more salubrious. As in the West Indies, the South American year may be divided into the *rainy* and *dry* seasons. Earthquakes frequently occur, especially near the equator.

Q. What are the productions of the South American continent ?

A. Nearly all the productions of Mexico, the Antilles, the United States and Europe are to be found in South America, besides a great variety of dye-woods and medicinal herbs, barks, resins, balsams, &c. Many of the trees and fruits are of an enormous size. Manioc, yams, potatoes, bananas, rice and maize are the principal food of the inhabitants.

Q. What are the chief mineral riches of South America ?

A. Gold, silver, copper, mercury, iron, diamonds, topazes, rubies and emeralds. The most valuable mines are situated in the region of perpetual snow.

Q. Are there any remarkable animals in South America.

A. Several species of the South American animals resemble those of Africa, as the tiger (jaguar), the leopard (cougar), the lion, the panther, the monkey, the ostrich, large serpents, &c. The lama, the vicuña and the paco, which inhabit the most mountainous districts, combine the useful qualities of the camel, sheep and goat. The marshy countries are filled with reptiles and noxious insects. Alligators, armadillos and the sloth abound in the hotter parts of Columbia and Guyana. The anaconda, like the boa constrictor, crushes men and cattle to death, and devours them. Countless herds of wild oxen and horses range the prairies and *pampas* watered by the Orinoco, the Amazon, the Rio de la Plata and their affluents. The birds are numerous, and, in general, very beautiful: the condor, which soars to the summit of Chimborazo (21,440 feet), is the largest, the fiercest and the swiftest of all the feathered creation.

Q. Name a few of the most important exports of South America?

A. The Columbian States export the best of cacao, tobacco and coffee, besides indigo, hides, &c.; Guyana, vast quantities of sugar, coffee, rum and spices, besides cotton, indigo &c.; Brazil, cotton, wheat, diamonds, hides, Brazil-wood, &c.; the South eastern republics, hides, beef, tallow, wool, live animals and skins; Peru and Bolivia, gold, silver, wine, brandy, Peruvian bark, &c.; Chili, gold, silver, copper, tin, flour; Patagonia, hides and furs. The imports of all

these countries are chiefly European manufactures. From an almost total want of practicable roads, there is little internal trade, except on the navigable rivers.

Q. What is the total population of South America?

A. About 16 millions, whose origin if we except Guyana, Brazil, Patagonia, and the southern parts of Chili, differs little from that of Mexico and Guatemala. In Guyana, there are scarcely 6000 whites, the rest being all negroes and mulattoes. Of the 5 millions who inhabit the Brazilian empire, one sixth are of Portuguese origin, one half slaves and one third independent Indians. The Patagons are a barbarous and idolatrous race, very tall in stature, who inhabit the farthest extremity of the continent and Terra del Fuego their chief occupations are hunting, and keeping flocks of *guanacos* (a kind of lama), vicunas, &c. The southern part of Chili is still possessed by the Araucanos, a very warlike nation, whom the Spaniards have never been able to subdue.

ERRATA IN THE PRECEDING PAGES.

Page 3. After these words: "top of a map," add: "the South, or bottom of a map."

Same page. Instead of "opposite the *Long Sault* rapids," insert, "above lake of the Two Mountains."

Page 17. Instead of "the five great lakes of North America," insert, "lakes Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario."