

THE GUYOT
GEOGRAPHICAL READER

A SERIES OF JOURNEYS ROUND THE WORLD



by
MARY HOWE SMITH PRATT



Five Sparrows Press
Texas

The Guyot Geographical Reader

The *Reader* (PART I) is Complete & Unabridged

The *Primer* (PART II) is not included in this edition

Copyright © 2023 Five Sparrows Press

All rights reserved

www.fivesparrowspress.com

LUKE 12:6-7

The text of this edition was first published in 1898 by AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY and included a *Primer*, which is omitted here. The 1898 edition was a revision of the 1882 edition published by CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, which in turn was a revision of Guyot's *Introduction to the Study of Geography* from 1866.

Front cover, back cover, and title page images taken from

Guyot's *Introduction to the Study of Geography*, 1866

Guyot's portrait taken from *Johnson's New General Cyclopædia*, 1885

Book design by Five Sparrows Press

version 1.0: December 2023

Set in Minion

Typeset with T_EX

Printed in the USA

Publisher's note: commas before verbs have been removed from this edition, to reflect contemporary practice. For example, "Away on the eastern border, is an immense body of water" has been changed to "Away on the eastern border is an immense body of water." See *Garner's Modern American Usage* (2003) 2ND ED., p. 655. In addition, some spellings have been modernized, e.g. fiord/fjord, cañon/canyon.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

The Atlantic Plain 4

The Appalachian Mountains 15

The Central Plain 20

The Mississippi 23

The Hudson 39

The Great Lakes and the St Lawrence 48

Lake Champlain and Adirondacks 59

New England 62

Rocky Mountain Country 67

The Table-land 70

California 74

In the Northwest 79

NORTHERN LANDS 82

SOUTHERN LANDS 87

SOUTH AMERICA

AMAZON AND SILVAS 94

ANDES 102

PLAINS OF THE ORINOCO 107

PLAINS OF THE LA PLATA 110

ATLANTIC OCEAN 114

EUROPE

BRITISH ISLES 119

ATLANTIC COAST COUNTRIES 128

SOUTHWESTERN PENINSULAS 142

CENTRAL AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE 153

RUSSIA 166

AFRICA 169

ASIA 176

AUSTRALIA 190

PACIFIC OCEAN 192

CONCLUSION (Poem) 194

WHAT WE LEARN IN GEOGRAPHY

ge-og'-ra-phy. | de-scrip'-tion. | in'-ter-est-ing.

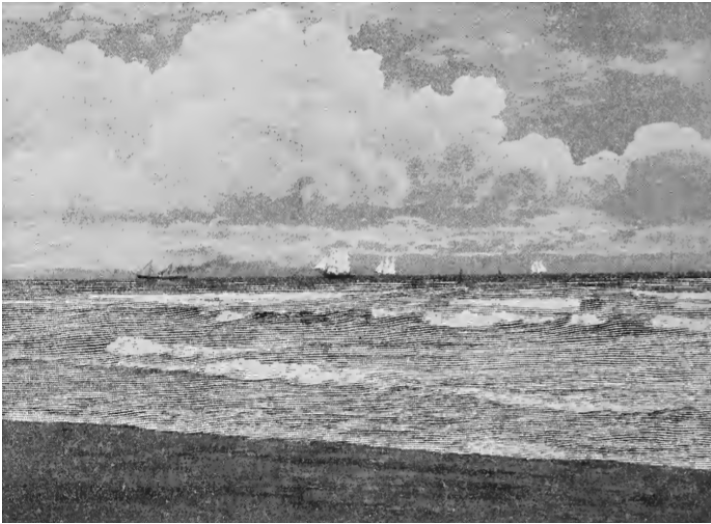
1. WHEN we want to learn all about a thing, so as to be sure of making no mistake, we like to see and examine it for ourselves. We are not content to know only what others can tell us, for we feel that our eyes are our surest teachers.

2. That is the best way to learn many things about the EARTH; for we live upon it, and it is all around us, and before our eyes at all times. But the earth is so great, and most people travel so little, that they can see for themselves only a very small part of it, even if they use their eyes busily wherever they go.

3. There are a thousand things that every one wants to know about his country, and about other parts of the world, which he must learn by reading books. But these books tell us only what is on the outside, or *surface*, of the earth; for that is all that interests most people. A book which tells about the surface of the earth, and the people and countries upon it, is called a *Geography*; for geography means *a description of the earth*.

4. When we look around us, we see that the earth has two kinds of surface. One is firm and solid; and we call it ground, or *land*. We walk or ride over it; we build our houses upon it; we see trees and grass growing out of it; we sow seeds in it, and soon it is covered with young, growing plants.

5. There is another part, which is not solid, but is always moving and flowing, and being stirred by the wind. This is *water*. People do not often build, upon the water, houses to live in; but there is a sort of building made on purpose to move about on it, and to carry persons from place to place where they may wish to go. These moving houses are boats and ships. People found out how to build them, and to make the water useful in this way, almost as soon as they learned to build houses on the land.



LAND AND SEA

6. We see more land than water, and it would not be at all strange if we should think there was more of it on the earth. But geography teaches us that there is much more water than land. Nearly *three fourths* of the earth's

surface is water, and only about *one fourth* is land. This is one of the things which we could not see for ourselves if we should travel over all parts of the earth, and use our eyes carefully everywhere.

7. There are other things about the earth, which wise men found out only through many years of hard study. These, too, we must learn from books. One of these is the shape of the earth. People used, ages ago, to have queer ideas about this. They thought that the earth was flat, like a great plate; that it was held up in some wonderful way, and that the sun and the stars all traveled around it.

8. Now, the books teach us that the earth is a great ball; that it keeps all the time whirling round and round; and that, at the same time, it rolls on in a great journey about the sun, year after year, never stopping even for a single moment.

9. The geographies teach us, too, about interesting countries in far-off parts of the world; about strange people, who look very unlike us; and about strong and fierce animals and curious plants, which we have never seen, and which could not live in a country like ours.

10. Thus children who would become wise must learn how to study books, as well as how to use their own eyes at all times, and to think about what they see. But, if we learn about the earth only what the eyes of travelers can teach them, we shall know a great deal of geography—more than most people know.

NORTH AMERICA



I. IN THE LEVEL COUNTRY

jour'-ney [*jer'-ny*]. | **car'-riage** [*car'-rij*]. | **veg'-e-ta-bles** [*vej'-*].

1. Now for the geography which our eyes can teach us. To get this, we will begin by making a long journey in a carriage, using our eyes busily all the time as we go along.

2. At first, for many hours, we drive through a fine country, with pretty white farmhouses, orchards, and fields of grain; with broad green meadows where the hay-makers are busy, and pastures where are flocks of sheep, and herds of cows and horses, feeding on the fresh sweet grass.

3. Little brooks ripple over the pebbles by the roadside, or wind, like silver threads, through the green grass of the pastures and meadows. Here and there are immense gardens, in which are raised great quantities of strawberries, melons, peaches, and other delicious fruits, and all sorts of vegetables for the table.

4. Now we drive through the pleasant, shady woods, where merry birds are singing, and many pretty flowers are blooming beneath the trees. We see squirrels hopping from branch to branch, or running as fast as their nimble feet can carry them, upon the fence by the roadside, and

soon dodging out of sight into some heap of stones or brush.

5. By and by we come to a little village with its *church* and *schoolhouse*, and its *stores*, where the farmers come to sell their eggs and butter, and buy their sugar and tea, and the other things which they need.



IN A VILLAGE

6. There is not much to be seen, only the mill pond, which has been made by building a dam across one of the brooks we have passed, and the *mill* beside it, to which the farmers bring their grain. A little way off are the *blacksmith's shop* and the *post office*, where three or four farmers are standing, talking over the news while waiting for their grain to be ground, or for their horses to be shod by the blacksmith.

7. Toward night we see the land before us rising higher and higher, so that if one above should loosen a stone, it would roll all the way down to us. Our horses begin to go slowly, for it is hard drawing the carriage up this road. Do you know what it is to which we have come? Of course you do. It is a *hill*, and we call it so because it is higher than the rest of the land. We first come to the *foot* of the hill; then we go up the *slope*, and finally we are at the *top*, and we shall soon begin to go down the other side.



II. UPON THE HILLTOP

ho-ri'-zon.
pal-met'-to.

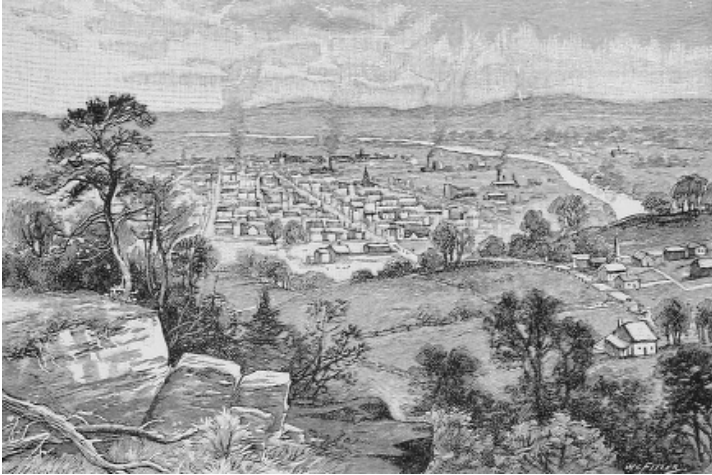
At-lan'-tic.
A-mer'-i-ca.

o'-cean [-shun].
Pa-cif'-ic.

1. LET us try what we can see from this hilltop. First look behind. There is the country through which we have been driving all the morning. There are many *farms* and *farmhouses*; many little *villages* scattered here and there, *roads* leading from one place to another in all directions, and *railroads* crossing the country in long, straight lines. There are also scattering *groves* that look very fresh and pleasant among the *gardens* and yellow *grainfields*, and *brooks* that shine in the sunlight like silver.

2. We can now see much more of the country than was in sight along the way as we were riding; because it is below us, and we can look down upon the whole of it at once. Compared with these hills, it seems quite flat and

level; but there are many swells and hollows all over it. Do you know what to call a broad, low land like this? It is a *plain*.



THE PLAIN AND HILLS

3. You notice that the earth, at a distance from us as far as we can see, seems to be just against the sky. Do you suppose the sky comes down there and touches the earth? No, it only seems to do so. Look all around, and you will see that on every side it is the same. We seem to be in the middle of a circle, with the sky touching the ground on all sides of us; just like a fly on a plate with a bowl turned over it.

4. You must remember that this *only seems* so. If you should go where the sky now appears to touch the earth, you would find it to be just as high, and just as

far off, as ever. Some time, when you are older, you will understand why this is so; now you can only remember it. Try to remember, also, that the line where the earth and sky seem to meet is called the *horizon*.

5. That part of the horizon where you see the sun rise is called *east*. Where it sets is *west*. The sun at noon is in the *south*, and high in the sky. Now, if you stand with your right hand toward the east and your left toward the west, you will face the *north*, and the *south* will be behind you. If you remember these points, you will always be able to know in what direction you are traveling, and can describe your journey so that other persons, who may wish to do so, can follow your route.

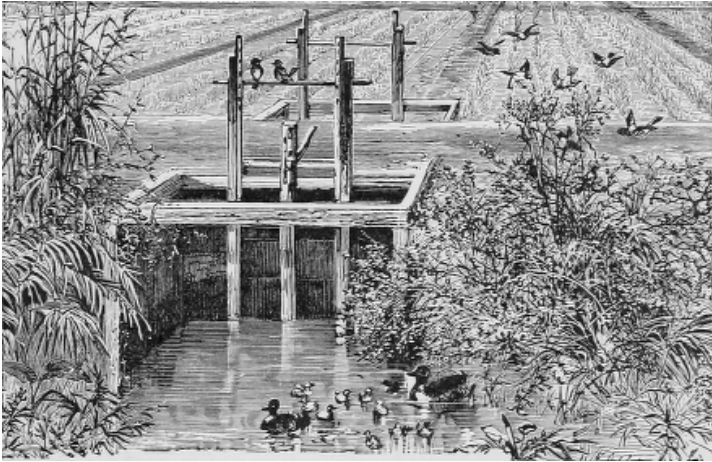
6. We came from the east. We are going toward the west. That plain which you see, stretches far away to the east, much beyond the place at which we started. We are now near the western border of it. Away on the eastern border is an immense body of water. It is called the *Atlantic Ocean*, and this plain is called the *Atlantic Plain* because it borders upon the Atlantic Ocean. The part of the plain over which we have traveled is named *New Jersey*. It is only a very small part of the Atlantic Plain.

7. This great plain extends hundreds of miles to the north and the south, and is everywhere somewhat level; but it has not, in all parts, the same kinds of trees and animals, nor the same pretty farmhouses, villages, and smooth roads.

8. In some places, far away to the south, you will find, for miles and miles, nothing but tall, dark pine trees. There are no farms, no villages, but only the little cabins

in which the people live who gather the turpentine from the pine trees.

9. In other places, still farther south, there are, for many miles, only great swamps. In these swamps are tall trees, with long moss trailing from the branches; and many kinds of flowers, growing in the water, like the white water lily.



A RICE FIELD

10. In the parts which are not swampy, oranges and lemons grow; and the *palmetto*, which is very different from any of the trees in the north. It is a kind of palm tree, and can grow only in warm countries. In the lowlands, near the sea, you will find large fields of *rice*. When seen growing, it looks much like a field of wheat or tall grass.

11. Far to the south, there is no winter. Instead of skating and sleigh rides on Christmas and New Year's,