
**A Short But Comprehensive System of the Geography of
the World**

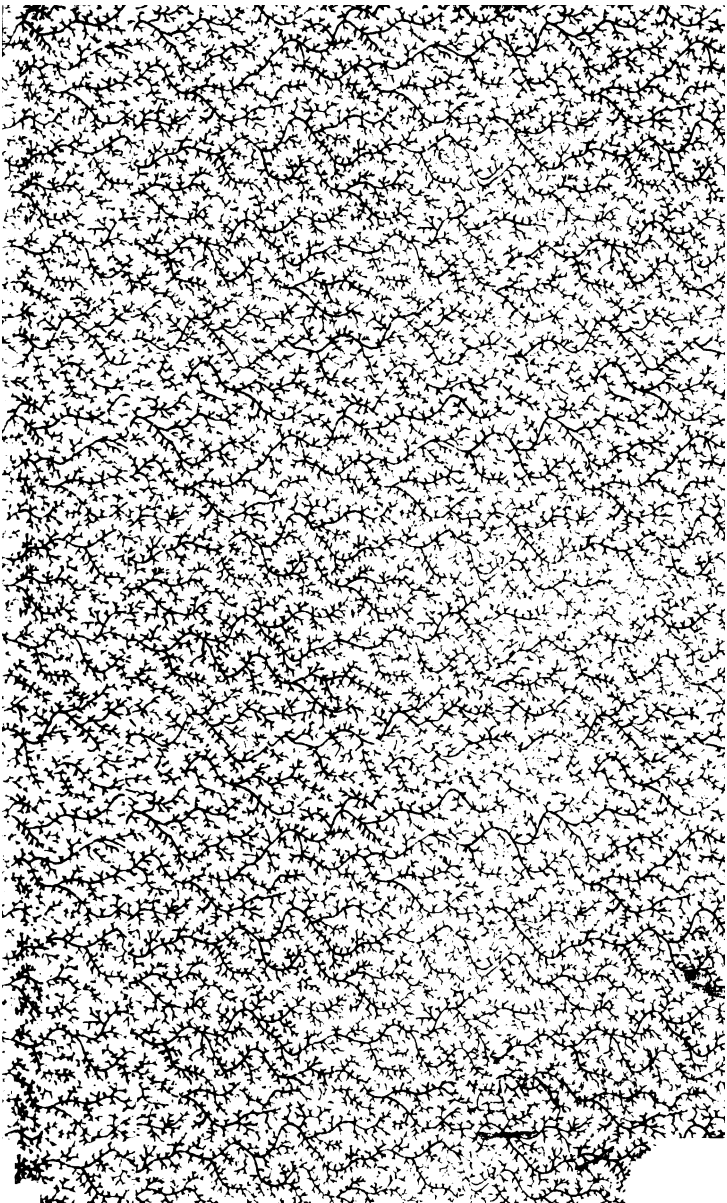
Dwight Nathaniel

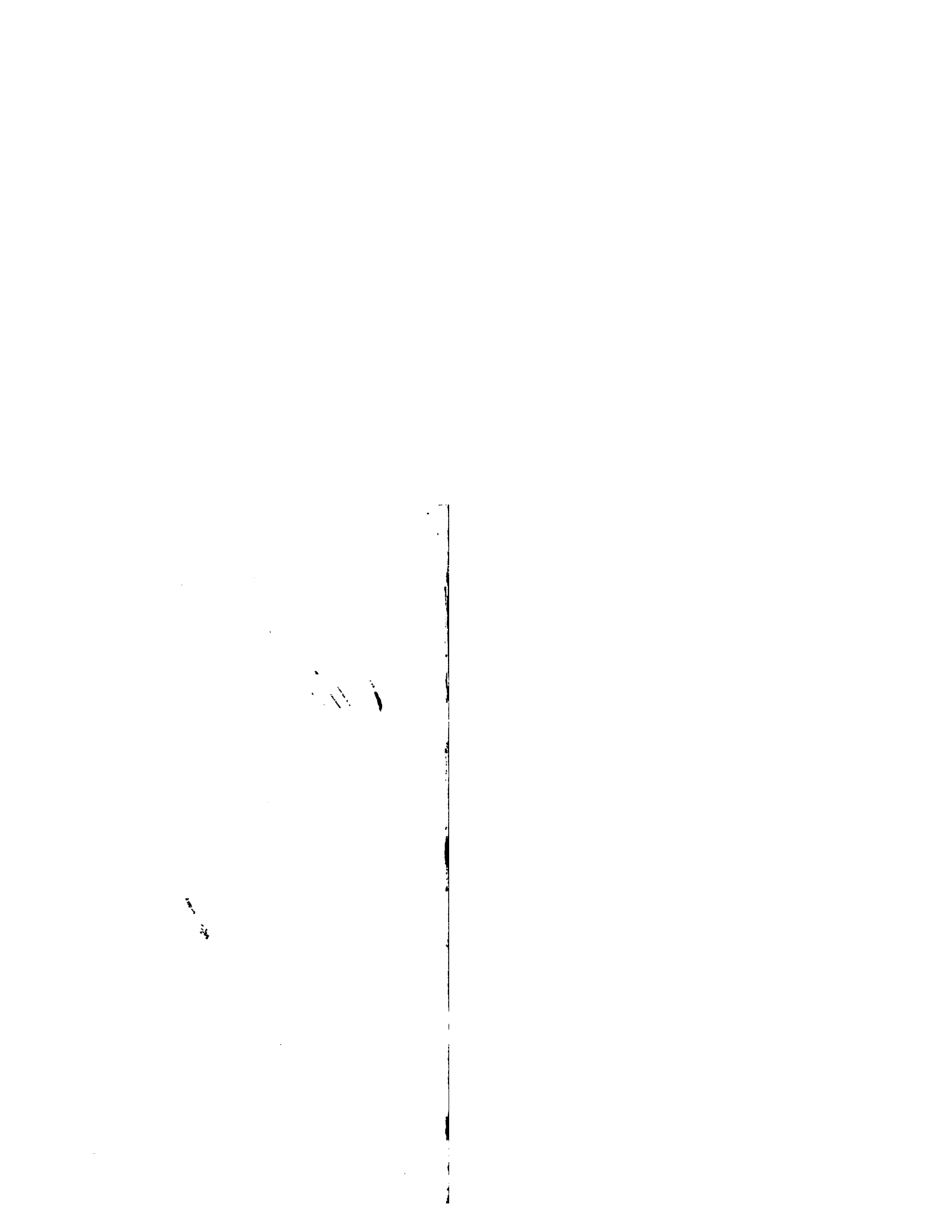
Title: A Short But Comprehensive System of the Geography of the World

Author: Dwight Nathaniel

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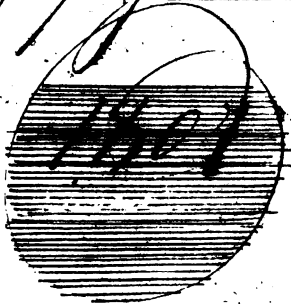




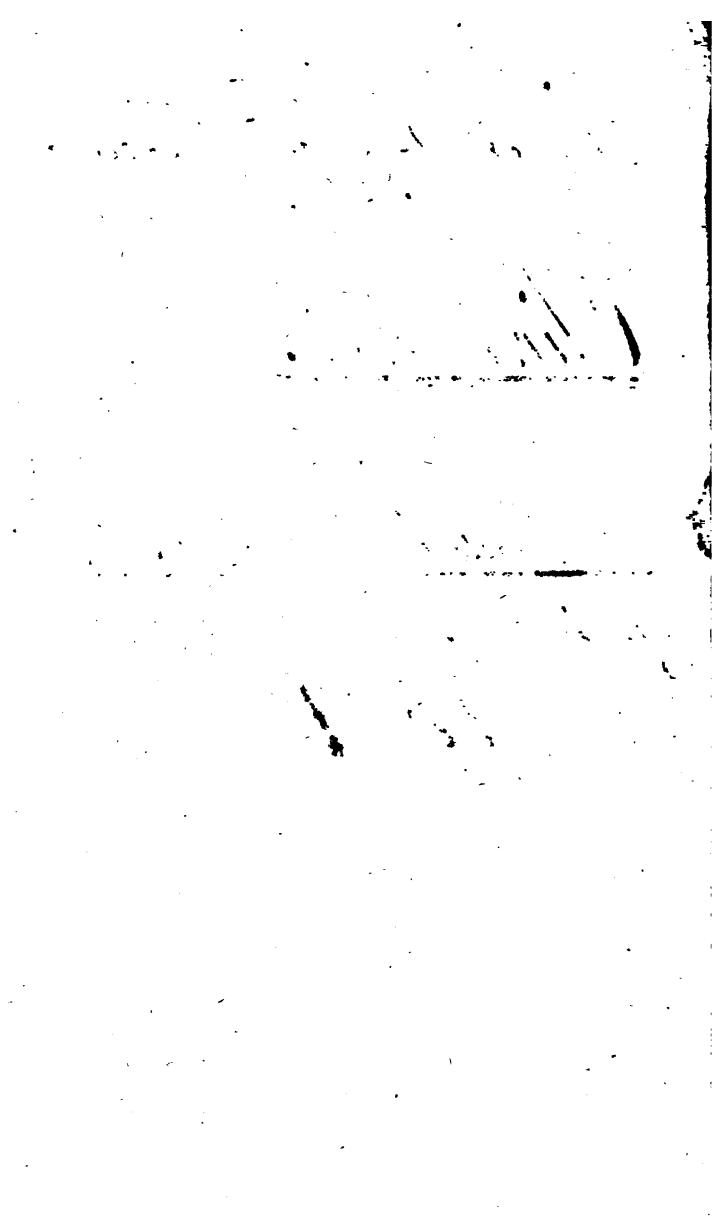
Charles M. Taintor
Colchester - Connecticut
August 3^d. 1867

Oliver Posters

Geography - Nov 24th



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Charles M. Sainster, Colchester 1867.

SHORT BUT COMPREHENSIVE

SYSTEM

OF THE

GEOGRAPHY

OF THE

WORLD:

BY WAY OF QUESTION AND ANSWER.

PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED FOR
CHILDREN AND COMMON SCHOOLS.

By NATHANIEL DWIGHT.

The Sixth Connecticut Edition.

"Geography and Chronology are the two Eyes of History."
LORD CHESTERFIELD.

*"Geography informs you where events happened, and Chronology,
at what time. Without these helps your reading would be a
confused mass, without order, light or perspicuity."*
BENNET.

Published according to act of Congress.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

DURING an employment of several years in school-keeping, I observed the science of Geography was but little attended to in the early years of childhood. There are various reasons for this inattention to so important a branch of education. One of these is the great expence of procuring books proper for it: another is, the plan of books which have been intended for that purpose is such as cannot be easily comprehended by children, or remembered by them. I think that both these objections are obviated in this treatise. The expence of this book is so small that it may be easily afforded, and the form of a catechism admits of its being much more comprehensive, and more easily understood by children, than any of the small geographies which have been heretofore designed for them. It shall enable them usefully to improve many hours of their early years, which for want of something of this kind, are entirely lost:—And should the first edition meet with suitable encouragement, the future editions will be enlarged and amended, as the author finds means and time for the purpose.

HARTFORD, May 12, 1795.

WE the subscribers have perused "*A short but comprehensive System of the Geography of the World, by way of Question and Answer; principally designed for Children and common schools, by NATHANIEL DWIGHT*"—and are of opinion that the compilation is judicious, and better calculated to impress the facts which it contains on the minds of children, than any other heretofore published. We with pleasure recommend it to the use of instructors, as being well calculated to lessen their own labours, and to facilitate the means of improvement in the minds of their young pupils.

JOHN TRUMBULL,
NATHAN STRONG,
ABEL FLINT,
CHAUNCY GOODRICH,
JOHN PORTER,
ANDREW KINGSBURY,
JONATHAN BRACE,
TAPPING REEVE,
JOHN ALLEN.

Letter to the Editor of the Edition printed in Boston.

Roxbury, December 4, 1795.

SIR,

HAVING attentively perused Mr. DWIGHT'S "*System of the Geography of the World*;" and also considering most of the works of this kind already extant: I cannot but view it, for method, style, perspicuity, and plainness of expression, as one of the best performances of the kind that I have ever seen. Indeed, the plan of managing the subject by question and answer, which modern experience has sufficiently evinced to be most useful and impressive upon the young and tender mind, gives it a decided preference in my opinion to every other. I wish you success in the publication of it; and assure you, I shall cheerfully give it all the aid in my power, to its introduction into the several schools in this town, and its vicinity.

Yours, &c.

THOMAS CLARKE.

Well.

A SHORT BUT COMPREHENSIVE
S Y S T E M
OF THE
GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD.

Q. **W**HAT IS GEOGRAPHY ?

A. Geography, in its most general sense, is the science of the earth (consisting of land and water) and its productions.

Q. How great a proportion of the earth is covered with water ?

A. About three fifths of the whole.

Q. What number of square miles does the earth contain ?

A. It is computed to contain one hundred and ninety-nine million, five hundred and eleven thousand, five hundred and ninety-five square miles.

Q. How many square miles are there of sea, and of parts unknown ?

A. One hundred and sixty million; five hundred and twenty-two thousand, and twenty-six.

Q. How many square miles are there of the habitable world ?

A. Thirty-eight million, nine hundred and ninety thousand, five hundred and sixty-nine.

Q. What are the natural divisions of the earth ?

A. The natural divisions of the earth are land and water.

Q. How is the land divided ?

A. Into two great continents, called the eastern and western continents

Q. How are these continents divided ?

A. The eastern is divided into Europe, Asia and Africa. The western is divided into North and South America.

Q. Are not these continents divided in a different manner ?

A. They are all divided into distinct governments.

Q. What are the governments ?

A. They are called by different names, as Empires, Kingdoms; Republics, &c.

Q. What is an Empire ?

A. Any government is so called which is governed by an Emperor or an Empress, as the Russian and German Empires. Otherwise it differs not from a Monarchy or Kingdom.

Q. What are Monarchies ?

A. They are of two kinds, either absolute or mixed. An absolute monarchy is that government which is swayed by one person, whether he is called King or Emperor, whose will is the only law of the nation. A mixed monarchy is that which is swayed by one person, as principal, in connexion with others, who hold a part of the government in their hands, and thereby have a check upon the King or Emperor. These mixed monarchies may be either composed of the three branches of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy, or they consist in a monarchy and aristocracy, or a monarchy and democracy.

Q. What is a Republic ?

A. It is either an aristocracy, democracy or a mixture of both.

Q. What is an Aristocracy ?

A. It is a government vested in the hands of nobles, as in Genoa and Venice.

Q. What is a Democracy ?

A. It is a government which is vested in the hands of persons who are elected by the people for their representative, as in France.

Q. What is an aristocratical Democracy ?

A. It is a government composed of both an aristocracy and democracy, as is the case in some of the Cantons in Switzerland.

Q. Is there any such government as an Oligarchy ?

A. Yes, Holland is governed by such an one, and it consists in a small number of nobles, who hold the government of the country. But this is one kind of aristocracy.

Q. What is a Continent ?

A. A continent is a large body of land not divided by water.