



*The New World
at Home*

Mary & Elizabeth Kirby
Revised and updated by Rachel E North

THE NEW WORLD AT HOME

OR,

PICTURES AND SCENES FROM FAR-OFF LANDS

BY

Mary and Elizabeth Kirby

REVISED AND UPDATED BY RACHEL E. NORTH



CHARLOTTE MASON BEEHIVE
MELTON MOWBRAY

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My heartfelt thanks goes out to Emily Kiser of *A Delectable Education* for her kindness in previewing this book for me and for offering such valuable feedback so as to make it ready for release to the Charlotte Mason community.

The New World at Home

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This new edition of 'The World at Home' is a brand new transcription, prepared and edited by Rachel North, for the exclusive use of Charlotte Mason Beehive. It is based off original scans of the nineteenth century publication, which has now entered the public domain.

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Introduction

“THE earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof,” so quote Mary and Elizabeth Kirby in the preface to their book, *The World at Home*. “Hill and dale, flower and tree, sunrise and sunset, proclaim His power and His love.”



THIS new edition of *The World at Home*, thus named because “it brings the world, that is so full of wonders, to our own fireside,” has, for our own purposes, been renamed *The New World at Home*.

As first described by the Kirby sisters, “young people can sit and read about the different races of men, the animals, the birds, the plants, and the insects, and perhaps never heard of. As they read, they must admire the wisdom of the Creator in fitting every animal for the clime it has to live in, as well as in providing for its wants.”

First published well over a hundred and fifty years ago, *The World at Home* was greatly admired by Miss Charlotte Mason, educational reformer, and founder of the ‘Parents’ National Education Union’. On page 276 of her own book, *Home Education*, Miss Mason writes:

“I know of nothing so good as the old-fashioned *World at Home* (for lessons) for children between six and seven. As they hear, they wonder, admire, imagine, and can even ‘play at’ a hundred situations.”

Even Miss Mason, writing over one hundred years ago, referred to *The World at Home* as old-fashioned! Yet despite this, she assigned it

consistently for her youngest students, up until the early 1920s when it was no longer in print.

It is no surprise as to why Miss Mason thought so highly of this first book of geography. Written in a lively, engaging, and enthusiastic style, it succeeds most admirably in bringing the world alive in the minds of its readers and igniting the imagination, and we are thrilled to finally be able to offer an updated version of this wonderful book.

Within the pages of this book you shall journey to the far north where the sea is broken up with ice, where the polar bear prowls, and where beautiful lights of all different colours dance merrily across the sky. From there you shall continue to the New World, and shall learn all about the ancient customs of the Native American. Up and down the country you shall travel, hearing as you go, all the wondrous tales of the animals and people who live there.

We hope you shall enjoy this journey with your students as much as we have enjoyed sharing it with you.

What's New About this Edition?

1. Designed for a Charlotte Mason Education

The New World at Home is intended to be used with students in Form IB, the first year of a Charlotte Mason education, and provides a first introduction to the study of geography for young children. Ordinarily students in this form will be six years old.

This revised edition contains content from the first half of Mary and Elizabeth Kirby's original publication and covers The Frozen Zone and the Americas. It contains fifty-four short lessons and is intended to be read over the course of one academic school year. Each lesson should exceed no more than ten to fifteen minutes once or twice a week, including time set apart for narration.

2. Updated for Twenty-First Century students:-

The text has been updated for use by twenty-first century students of geography, whilst fully maintaining the spirit and style in which the original was written.

We at Charlotte Mason Beehive recognise the need for our students to be put in touch with quality living books, and at the same time we recognise that they deserve to be presented with accurate and current information. Sadly, it is not always possible to merge the two as some of the most wonderfully written living books are significantly out of date. *The World at Home* is one such book. So beautiful is the spirit in which it was written that it deserves to be brought alive once again.

Treating the text with great respect, we have made careful edits and additions wherever necessary.

The original illustrations have been retained within the pages of this book, but should be perceived from an historical perspective. In many cases the illustrations do not reflect the people or places of the twenty-first century. For up to date imagery please refer to section 3 of 'What's New About this Edition', below.

3. Footnotes:-

Alongside your purchase of *The New World at Home* we highly recommend its picture-book companion, *Geography Pictures for a Living Education: The New World at Home*. This book, which is made up entirely of pictures, maps, and photographs, relates directly to the people and places read about in your geography lessons for this unit. It is designed to be used alongside your reading of *The New World at Home*.

To maximise its efficiency and to avoid any extra prep work by parents and teachers, footnotes are littered throughout *The New World at Home*, indicating when a picture is available to supplement the text.

For example:

Geography Pictures: The New World at Home, p. 42. No. 36.

It goes without saying that even though the footnotes are scattered throughout the text itself you should not interrupt the flow of the narrative to draw attention to a picture. It may be good practice to allow the students to view the pictures before the reading of the lesson text. This is so the students may refer to the pictures during the reading; however should you find this is distracting for the students, you may wish to introduce the pictures before or after narration instead. We don't advise allowing students to refer to the pictures during their narrations.

We sincerely hope you find this revised edition of *The World at Home* helpful and enjoyable, and that you will have a pleasant and engaging school year learning geography with your students through living books. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us through our website at charlottesmasonbeehive.co.uk.

RACHEL E. NORTH,
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The New World at Home



I—THE TOWER THAT WAS TO REACH THE SKY

ONCE upon a time, the people who lived on the earth spoke the same language. But they became lifted up with pride. The earth had once been drowned by a flood. Perhaps they thought, if they could build a tower high enough to reach to heaven, they never need fear a flood any more.¹

It was very wicked of them to think so. God had told them that He would never drown the world again; and they ought to have trusted His word.

And they might have known that no tower could be built by the hands of man which would be high enough to reach to heaven.

Did they build the tower?

They began to build it, but God stopped them.

He confounded their speech. That is, He made one man speak one language and another man another language. So the men could not understand each other.

¹ *Geography Pictures: The New World at Home, p. 7, No. 01.*

What a confusion there must have been! Of course, they could not go on building the tower. Each man went his own way, and the tower was given up.

Ever since that time different languages, or tongues, have been spoken all over the world. Each nation has its own language. In England, we speak English; and in France, people speak French; and so on.

But are the people who live in different parts of the world all alike? Oh no; far from it.

They have not the same colour, or the same features, or the same habits, or the same religion.

I think you will like to know something about other countries. You will find that people have a great many curious customs, and wear very curious dresses, and eat very curious things.

In some parts of the world it is very hot, in other parts very cold. In other places people are so happy as to live where it is neither hot nor cold.

But wherever men are placed, the good God provides them with enough to satisfy their wants. There is no part of the world where man can get out of the reach of God!

II—SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEATHER

THERE is a part of the world which is very hot indeed.

If you open the map of the world in your book of *Geography Pictures*, I will show you where it is.²

² *Geography Pictures: The New World at Home*, p. 8. No. 02.

Do you see the red line that runs through the middle of the map? That is called the Equator. There is no line in reality, but when ships pass through the place where the Equator is, they call it 'passing under the line'.

The sailors have a great deal of fun when they pass under the line. Some of them dress up, and get into a boat, and then pretend to hail the ship.

Often one of the sailors will dress up like Neptune, who was said, by the pagan, to be god of the sea. They give a little present to the captain, and dance on the deck and have very rough sports.³

Look at the map on page 10 of *Geography Pictures*⁴ and you will see how the world is divided into zones, determined by climate.

On each side of the Equator is the Torrid Zone, or the Tropics. You can guess the meaning of the word *torrid*. It means very hot indeed. The sun is hotter than ever it is in England. Great palm trees grow in the Tropics, and large bright flowers, more beautiful than I can tell you. And there are wild beasts, and monkeys, and parrots, and humming birds.

There is no winter at all. The leaves drop off the trees; but the new leaves have come before the old ones go. The trees are always green. It is summer all the year round.

How far does the Tropical Zone reach?

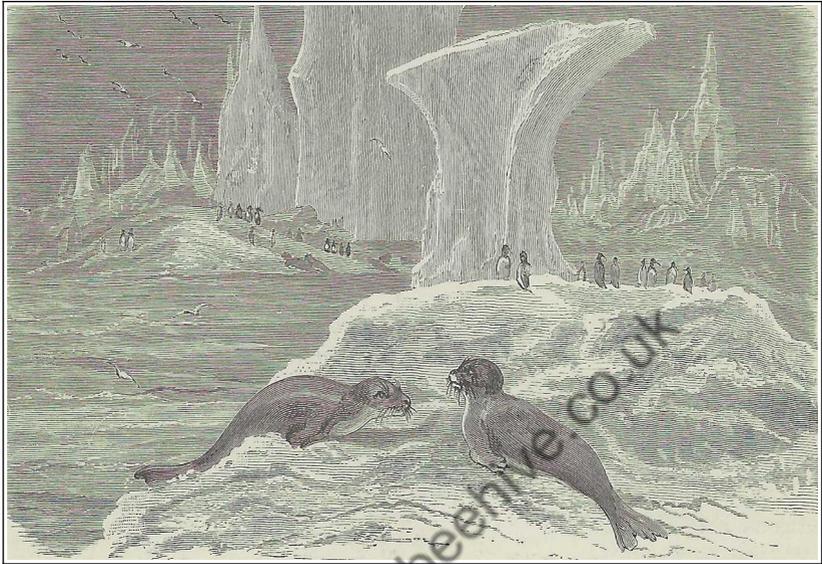
It reaches to two lines that you can see, one on each side of the Equator.

Read their names.

The Tropic of Cancer to the north, and the Tropic of Capricorn to the south.

3 *Geography Pictures: The New World at Home, p. 9. No. 03.*

4 *Geography Pictures: The New World at Home, p. 10. No. 04.*



THE FROZEN ZONE.

What kind of a climate do we come to, when we are out of the Tropical Zone?

To a climate where it is neither very hot nor very cold. Such a climate as England.

We are in the Temperate Zone. Here people can work hard, and not feel the worse for it. They can build great cities, and work with machines, and lead very active lives. The great nations of Europe are in the North Temperate Zone.

The South Temperate Zone has not many people in it. It is nearly all water.

Are there any more Zones?

Yes; there are the Frozen Zones, or Frigid Zones. The countries round the North Pole are in the Frozen Zone. The South Frozen

Zone has no countries in it. It is all sea and ice. The weather is very cold indeed in the Frozen Zone. The winter lasts nearly all the year round. The sea is blocked up with ice, and at last the ice and the cold will not let the sailors get any further.

Do any people live in the Frozen Zone?

Yes; people have lived in the Frozen Zone for thousands of years. They have adapted to the frigid conditions. They go to work and play sports and enjoy many of the same modern conveniences as us in England.

III—THE RED LIGHT IN THE SKY

YOU never saw such a grand sight as this in your life! The sky is full of lights that keep dancing about, or else form a beautiful arch overhead.⁵

Your eyes would be almost dazzled by looking at them. Some of the lights are red, some are yellow, and some are purple. In fact, they are all the colours of the rainbow. It is the Frozen Zone where these lights shine the brightest. They seem as if they came to cheer up the poor people who live there.

In the winter, these poor people cannot see the sun for many weeks. I do not mean that the sky is clouded; but that the sun never shines above the horizon. Do you know what the horizon means?

You must go up a hill, and then look round. You will see, in the distance, that there is a line where the sky seems to touch the ground.

That line is the horizon. If it is very early in the morning, you may perhaps see a rosy light in the east. And then up will come the golden ball of the sun. But in the Frozen Zone, if it was winter, you might

5 *Geography Pictures: The New World at Home, p. 11. No. 05.*