

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS ON SUBJECTS OF CURRENT INTEREST

projection is used; all meridians and all parallels of latitude being parallel lines, the former being equidistant and the latter increasing in distance apart as they approach the Poles. Thus parts of Alaska, about 60 degrees north latitude, are shown, roughly speaking, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ times too wide and four times too high. This projection gives Alaska, British America and the four Scandinavian countries undue importance. The globular projection, viewpoint 1.707 times the radius from the centre of the sphere, gives the least distortion.—ROBERT GRIMSHAW, Leonia, N. J.

Maps.

Many of the maps printed in newspapers give a wrong impression of actual and relative areas, especially of districts in high northern and southern latitudes. This is because the Mercator