

37. The South Eastern coast of *Africa*, from the frontiers of *Abyssinia* to the Colony of *Natal*, is parcelled out into a number of savage principalities and communities, concerning whom but little is known beyond their names. The *Portuguese* had formerly many settlements upon it, and from them most of the information has been derived which we possess about the country; but these settlements have been sadly neglected, and are now either in a very low condition or altogether abandoned, whilst their empire in this quarter of the globe, which once embraced a line of coast more than 2,000 miles in length, is now confined to a doubtful dominion over that part of it only which extends from *Cape Delgado* to *Cape Corrientes*.—The country between the frontiers of *Abyssinia* and *Cape Guardafui* is inhabited by a numerous and powerful race of people, called *Somaulis*, whose chief town is *Berbora*, where they carry on an extensive traffic with the surrounding tribes, many of whom resort to it by caravans from a great distance in the interior. To the S. of *Cape Guardafui* is an extensive barren line of coast, called *Ajan*, or *Hazine*, known to the ancients by the name of *Azania*. Below it is the kingdom of *Magadoxa* or *Mugdasho*, extending nearly as far Southward as the Equator, and inhabited by a savage and jealous race of people, who are chiefly Mahometans, though there is a mixture of *Abyssinian* Christians: its chief town is also called *Magadoxa*, and is situated at the mouth of a large river; it is principally of *Arabian* architecture, may contain 5,000 inhabitants, and has a considerable trade in ivory, gums and slaves. Still farther Southward is the

little republic of *Brava*, with a town of the same name, having a considerable trade with the East; it was once tributary to the *Portuguese*, but since the decline of their power in these regions it has regained its independence. Below this are the districts of *Juba* and *Melinda*, which were likewise formerly in the possession of the *Portuguese*, but are now under the authority of the Imaum of *Muscat*. The towns of *Patta* and *Lamoo*, formerly in the hands of the *Portuguese*, are situated on two islands of the same name, not far from the mouth of the *River Quilimani*, which is supposed to take its rise in that range of mountains which forms the Southern frontiers of *Abyssinia*. Vasco de Gama, after having doubled the *Cape of Good Hope*, sailed along the *African* coast till he arrived at *Melinda*, where he was very courteously received by the natives, who supplied him with pilots to conduct him across the *Indian Ocean* to *Malabar*. The town of *Melinda* was built by the *Portuguese*, and was a place of considerable importance under their rule; it is situated near the mouth of the *Quilimani*.

38. The name of *Zanzibar*, or *Zanguebar*, is vaguely applied to a large tract of country between the *Quilimani* and the head of the *Mozambique Channel*, though it is sometimes extended from *Cape Guardafui* to the kingdom of *Mozambique*: it is said to signify literally the Country of the Blacks, the population consisting chiefly of Negroes, with a few *Arabs* who have mostly settled in the towns. During the prosperity of the *Portuguese* their dominion extended over the greater part of it, but they have latterly been driven from most of their settlements by the native powers, and by the Imaum of *Muscat*, to whom now belong *Mombas* and *Quiloa*, or *Keelwa*, the principal places on that coast. The island of *Zanzibar* is situated about midway down the coast, from which it is separated by a narrow strait of 20 miles; it is 40 miles in length, may have a population of 200,000; its chief town is *Shanganny*, which may contain 4,000 inhabitants; it carries on a flourishing little commerce with all the surrounding country, as well as with *Arabia*, *Madagascar*, and the principal islands in the *Indian Ocean*, and is governed by a shekh appointed by the Imaum of *Muscat*. To the S. of *Cape Delgado* are *Querimba* and *Mozambique*, both in a certain measure tributary to the *Portuguese*. The name of *Querimba* is likewise applied to a long range of small and numerous islands lying off the coast of the former government, the principal of which are *Aswatado*, *Ibo*, and *Querimba*; they were once very productive and in a flourishing condition, but owing to the depredations committed on them by the *Madagascar* pirates, and the excessive imbecility of the *Portuguese*, whose governor, with a small guard, resides at *Ibo*, where there is a town and fort, they are now in a very neglected state. The name of *Mozambique*, or *Mosambico*, is properly speaking confined to the country N. of the *River Cuama* or *Zambeze*, but the *Portuguese* sometimes use it to designate the whole of their dominions in this quarter of the globe, affecting to divide them into seven governments, viz. *Querimba* or *Cabo*

*Delgado, Mozambique, Quilimane, Sena, Sofala, Inhambane, and Laurenzo Marquez*; their power in the four last of these is, however, very questionable. In the year 1498, Vasco de Gama, in his first voyage to *India*, touched at *Mozambique*, and was at first well received, but the inhabitants having subsequently discovered that the *Portuguese* were Christians, a plot was laid to destroy them, from which they judged themselves fortunate in escaping. Ten years afterwards they obtained permission to erect a fort at *Mozambique*, by means of which they soon became masters of the place and of the whole surrounding country. Its convenience as a station of refreshment for their vessels, and its proximity to the gold mines of *Mocaranga*, soon caused it to rise rapidly in importance, and it became at last the capital of their *African* possessions in this quarter, which were all placed under governors subject to the viceroy of *Goa* in *India*. The town of *Mozambique* is situated upon an island of the same name, and contains about 3,000 inhabitants, one-sixth of whom are *Portuguese*; it has sadly degraded from its once flourishing condition, though there is still some poor attempt made at display on the part of the government: its strength is by no means great, being barely sufficient to protect it from the incursions of the native tribes and the *Madagascar* pirates. It is the residence of the governor, and a bishop's see. The Strait between the coast of *Africa* and the Island of *Madagascar* is called the *Mozambique Channel*, from the town of *Mozambique*, which lies off the mainland at the narrowest part of the strait, the nearest distance between them being 220 miles. *Quilimane*, situated at the mouth of the *Cuama*, and on its Northern bank; it was a great depôt for merchandize, and was tolerably well defended; large vessels must, however, here transfer their cargoes to pinnaces and boats, in which they are carried up the river into the interior, the products of the country being brought down in the same way, and put on ship board at *Quilimane*. The number of the free inhabitants is very small, the principal trade being in slaves.

39. The territory of *Mocaranga*, called also *Monomotapa*, *Benomotapa*, and *Motapa*, extends from the great river *Zambeze* or *Cuama* on the North, as far Southwards as the *Laurenzo Marquez*, which runs into *Delagoa Bay*. It is divided into several independent states, or kingdoms; the principal of these are *Motapa*, *Manica*, *Botonga*, and *Borora*: they are celebrated for their gold-mines, so much so indeed, that the *Ophir* of the Scriptures has been considered by many learned men as referring to *Sofala*. The people of *Mocaranga* are mostly negroes, though such as dwell towards the coast belong to the *Egyptian* or *Arab* race: its metropolis is *Zimbacæ*, towards the head of the *Sofala River*, but little is known concerning it. The town of *Sofala* itself is situated at the mouth of a river of the same name, and at the head of a little bay of the *Mozambique Channel*, called the *Bay of Sofala*. When the *Portuguese* first obtained settlements on this coast, *Sofala* was a place of great commercial importance and became

subsequently the channel by which they carried on most of their intercourse with the interior; but since they have constituted *Mozambique* their capital, *Quilimane* has become the great point of communication between them and the natives, and *Sofala* has sunk into a mere collection of huts; the *Portuguese*, however, still maintain a fort here, which holds the supremacy over that of *Inhambane*, lying farther to the South. The town of *Inhambane* is one of the largest and most flourishing on the coast, and may contain 5,000 inhabitants. The last of the *Portuguese* settlements is a fort near *Cape Inyack*, at the entrance of *Delagoa Bay*, where a similar trade is carried on. This bay is large, commodious, and safe, and receives the waters of more than one considerable river.