

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE AND NATAL.

42. THE territory of the *Cape of Good Hope* is bounded on the E. by *Kaffraria*, or the country of the *Kaffirs*; on the S. by

the *Indian Ocean*; on the W. by the *Atlantic Ocean*; and on the N. by the *Orange River*. It contains 94,400 square miles, and about 250,000 inhabitants, of whom two-thirds are *Hottentots* or negroes, and the remainder *Europeans*: it has derived its name from the great Southern promontory of *Africa*, so called, or sometimes, by way of eminence, *The Cape*. This famous Cape, the discovery of which, next to that of *America*, forms the greatest event in modern maritime history, was first visited by a *Portuguese* squadron, under the command of Bartholomew Diaz, in 1487, and was then named *Cabo Tormentoso*, from the tempestuous nature of the sea which is generally rolling off it, and which deterred its first discoverers from proceeding farther. The enterprising king of *Portugal*, however, entertaining no doubt of his having found the long desired route to *India*, discarded the name of the *Cape of Tempests* for one of better omen, and gave it the appellation by which it is at present known; he likewise equipped another squadron, confided it to the command of Vasco de Gama, who in the year 1497, surmounted all the difficulties which had deterred his predecessor, doubled the Cape, and had the glory of being the first who in an *European* vessel sailed over the *Indian Seas*. But the *Portuguese* never formed any permanent settlement at the *Cape of Good Hope*, though they generally touched at it in all their future voyages to *India*. The *Dutch* first fixed upon it at the beginning of the 17th century as a station of refreshment for them, and began about fifty years afterwards to colonize the neighbouring territory: they soon succeeded in driving the few inert and savage natives into the interior, or in reducing them to slavery, and by degrees extended the *Cape Colony* nearly to its present limits. It was taken from them by the *English* during the late war, in the year 1795, but was restored to them at the peace of *Amiens*; on the renewal of hostilities, however, it once more fell into the hands of the *English*, in the year 1806, and has ever since remained in our possession, the sovereignty of it having been confirmed to the king of *Great Britain* at the Congress of *Vienna*.

43. *South Africa* is a country of terraces sloping gently to the N. and W. from the summits of mountain/ranges, which present steep escarpments to the S. and E.; the table land through which the *Orange River* and its tributaries flow is the highest of these, the S. portion of which is known as the *Great Karroo*. The Northern and principal range is known as the *Snieberg* or *Stormberg Mountain*, which may be considered as a spur of the *Mathamba Mountains*, to which, towards the N. and E., the other chains also appear to converge. This range probably attains an elevation exceeding considerably 12,000 feet, since the mountains at the sources of the *Orange River* must be that height, and *Compassberg* in *Graaf Reynet* rises 10,500. The southern ranges are known as *Zwaghenhoch*, *Katberg*, and *Amatola*, and culminate in the *Winterberg* at 7,610 feet, and through the fertile valleys of these mountains the *Great Fish*, *Kat*, and *Burneen*, and *North*

Victoria rivers flow towards the E. into the sea, as the *Bree de Guaritz*, *Gamtoos*, and *Bushmans* rivers do to the S., and *Oliphants* and *Berg* rivers to the W. The *Orange River* is, however, the most considerable, rising far to the E. in the highest elevations; its two principal sources unite after a course respectively of about 250 miles; of these the Southern is the *Gariiep*, and the Northern the *Vaal*; the former receives the *Caledon* and other affluents, the latter the *Eland*, *Mull*, *Mooi*, and others; from the point of junction to the sea may be 550 miles, and below this a considerable affluent joins the main stream from the S., formed by the *Hartebeest*, *Zac*, and *Great Riet*, and known as the *Visch*, while the *Fish Borradaile*, and *Oup* flow into it from the N. through *Namaqua* land. The upper course of this river and its affluents are often through beautiful and fertile mountain valleys; in the middle and lower the water is scant, and the country arid and barren. The whole colony is divided into 2 provinces and 21 counties. The Western province contains the counties or divisions of the *Cape Malmesbury*, *Stellenbosch*, *Paarl*, *Worcester*, *Swellendam*, *Caledon*, *Clanwilliam*, *George*, and *Somerset*; the Eastern those of *Albany*, *Fort Beaufort*, *Graaf Reynet*, *Somerset*, *Colesberg*, *Cradock*, *Utenhage*, *Algoa Bay* or *Port Elizabeth*, *Albert*, and *Victoria*; these presided over by commissioners who act as magistrates, are again subdivided into 275 field cornetries or wards. The metropolis of the Colony is called *Cape Town*, and is situated at its South Western extremity, at the head of *Table Bay*, on a plain sloping downwards from the *Table Mountain*. Originally built by the *Dutch*, it is defended by a castle and forts, and has an extensive harbour, which however is not safe from June to August. It is the seat of government, a bishop's see, and has an university; its population may be 25,000. The liquor called *Constantia* is made from the fruit of a single vineyard at the foot of *Table Mountain*. The other principal ports are *Simon's Town* and *Port Elizabeth*; the former, which is the seat of the Admiralty, and where also vessels take refuge when *Table Bay* is unsafe, is 23 miles to the S. of *Cape Town* in *False Bay*, separated from *Table Bay* by a peninsula which includes the three remarkable and lofty mountains known by the names of the *Table Mountain*, the *Lion's Head*, and the *Lion's Rump*; and its Southern extremity forms the bold promontory of the *Cape of Good Hope*; the latter is in the district of *Utenhage* on *Algoa Bay*, possesses a good harbour, and has a population of above 3,000 chiefly of *English* descent. The chief towns of the several counties bear the same names, excepting *Graham's Town* in *Albany*, and *Alice* in *Victoria*; the former is fast rising into importance, its population may approach 7,000 in number. The commerce of *Cape Colony* is considerable, its exports exceeding half a million, and its imports approaching one million sterling. The principal occupations of the inhabitants are in producing corn and wine, and feeding cattle; *Zwellendam* is the centre of the first, *Stellenbosch* of the second; the third is universal throughout the Colony.

44. The original inhabitants of the *Cape of Good Hope* are called *Hottentots*, and may be divided into three principal classes, the *Hottentots* properly so called, the *Bosjesmans*, and the *Namaquas*: they are all in a very low degree of civilization, and have been reduced to a state of servitude. They live for the most part in hemispherical huts, to a collective number of which the name of *kraal* is applied: the communities of these different *kraals* seldom intermarry with each other, but preserve themselves and their property entirely distinct, both from the influence and government of their neighbours. They are mostly pagans, though a few of them have been converted to the Christian faith, by the indefatigable labours of *European* Protestant missionaries. The *Bosjesmans* mostly dwell in the Northern parts of the colony. The *Namaquas* inhabit the North Western parts of the colony, and though superior to the *Bosjesmans* and to the *Hottentots* of the Southern districts, are still very uncivilized. On the E. of *Cape Colony* is *Kaffraria*, or *Kaffirland*, extending from the *Keishamma* to the *St. John River*, which forms the Southern boundary of the colony of *Natal*; the principal part of its area is drained by the *Kei*, which, with the other rivers of the district, rises in the short slopes and Eastern spurs of the *Mathlamba* ranges. This and the *Orange River* district were inhabited by *Kaffirs*, a race more intelligent and powerful than the *Hottentots*, and by whom the latter had been displaced; they were driven from the *Orange River* district by the *English*, who first assumed it under the title of the *Orange River* sovereignty, and have since abandoned the portion N. of the river; from them were also taken the Eastern districts of the colony. To the N. and W. of the *Orange River*, the *Griquas*, or *Bastaards*, descendants of *Dutch* fathers and *Hottentot* mothers, have settled, and on the N. the *Bichuanas* have considerable towns, the principal of which are *Lattakoo* and *Kurrichane*, while the *Zooloo* tribe of *Kaffirs* occupy the Eastern coast districts, which are separated from the colony of *Natal* by the *Tukela River*; this river drains a considerable area, and is formed by the confluence of the *Umzimnyati* or *Buffalo*, the *Tukela*, and the *Mooi* or *Impafane*; it rises in the *Mathlamba*, close to the sources of the *Umfoota*, which falls into *Delagoa Bay*, and between them is the *St. Lucia*, occupying the centre of the *Zooloo* country. *Natal*, the Eastern coast district, may be divided into three parts, physically distinct; that of the coast, which is flat, moist, and produces cottons and other sub-tropical vegetables; the thorn land, where the mimosa predominates, and the well-watered, well-wooded, and fertile mountain valleys. The political divisions of *Natal* are *D'Urban*, *Pieter Maritzberg*, *Umvoti*, *Impafane*, *Tukela*, and *Umzimnyati*; *Pieter Maritzberg* is the capital, but the most important place is *D'Urban*, or *Port Natal*, distant from it about 50 miles, and situated on a magnificent harbour, about the centre of the coast of the colony. This colony is dependent on the *Cape of Good Hope*, and has been erected into a Bishop's see.