

47. The name of *Guinea* is applied to the whole extent of country from the Equator to *Cape Mesurado* on the N. W., in the neighbourhood of *Sierra Leone*: the territories included under this appellation comprehend a superficial extent of about 243,100 square miles, and their population has been estimated at 8,000,000 souls, which is no doubt far beyond the real number. Some, however, extend the name as far to the N. W. as the *Senegal*; whilst others, again, confine it between *Cape Mesurado* and *Benin*. The great inlet of the *Atlantic Ocean* to the South and West of it, between *Capes Palmas* and *Lopez*, is called the *Gulf of Guinea*. *Guinea* is commonly divided by *Europeans* into four parts, viz. the *Grain Coast*, the *Ivory Coast*, the *Gold Coast*, and the *Slave Coast*: the last of these extends from the *Bight of Benin*, round the head of the *Gulf of Guinea*, to the frontiers of *Loango*. This extensive line of coast is separated from the upper basin of the *Niger* by the *Kong* mountains, which are in character not dissimilar to the lower ranges of the *Cape Colony*; the inhabitants are all blacks, and are divided into a number of petty kingdoms, the limits and power of which are constantly varying with the success of the wars which they wage against each other; they are all pagans. Several of the *European* nations, as the *English*, *French*, *Dutch*, *Danes*, *Swedes*, and *Portuguese*, had factories along this coast; but though they were once nearly fifty in number, by far the greater part of them are now abandoned or destroyed; the first settlement was formed by the *Portuguese* at *Elmina*.

48. The *Coast* or country of *Gaboon* lies immediately above the kingdom of *Loango*, and is inhabited by several tribes, the knowledge of whom is involved in deep obscurity; it is watered by the *River Gaboon*, which runs into the *Atlantic* opposite the Island of *St. Thomas*, between *Cape Lopez* and the *Bay of Corisco*. The *Coast of Biafra* lies between *Gaboon*, on the S. and *Waree* on the N., and has communicated its name to the *Bight of Biafra*, or head of the *Gulf of Guinea*, round which it may be described as extending: it includes many petty states, and is watered by several

important rivers, as the *Cameroons*, the *Rio del Rey*, the *Old Calabar*, and the *Cross River*, of which the mouths alone are navigable. Here likewise are some very elevated mountains, one of which, called the *Cameroons*, towers above the sea to the height of 13,000 feet. The *Coast of Calabar*, or *Kingdom of Warea* as it is sometimes termed, extends from *Biafra* on the E. to *Benin* on the W.; and here are the *Bonny*, the *New Calabar*, the *Non*, and the *Forcados*, only the lower courses of which are known. The principal towns and settlements on this coast are, *Duke's Town*, *Bonny*, *New Calabar*, and *Warea*. The *Coast* or *Kingdom of Benin* lies between *Warea* on the E., and the *Slave Coast* properly so called on the W.; from it an inlet of the *Gulf of Guinea* has obtained the name of the *Bight of Benin*. *Benin*, its chief town, is one of the largest native settlements on the whole coast, and is situated some distance up the country. These are all generally included in the *Slave Coast*.

49. The *Slave Coast*, properly so called, extends between the *River Lagos* on the E., which separates it from *Benin*, to the *Volta* on the W., which separates it from the *Gold Coast*. It contained several distinct states or kingdoms, as *Jaboo*, *Whidah*, *Ardrah*, *Popo*, and *Dahomey*, but the king of the last-mentioned country has of late years reduced them all to subjection. The capital of *Dahomey* is some distance in the interior: the other chief towns lie along the coast, and amongst them may be mentioned *Badagry*, *Porto Novo*, *Whidah*, and *Great Popo*. The *Gold Coast* extends from the *Volta* on the E. to *Cape Apollonia* on the W., where it confines with the *Ivory Coast*: it derived its name from that metal being obtained there by the *Portuguese*. The natives of the *Gold Coast* were formerly divided into many independent states, the principal of which were *Amina*, *Assin*, *Fantee*, *Ahanta*, *Warsaw*, *Dankara*, and *Ashantee*; but they are now all subject to the sovereign of the last-mentioned country; his own territories are situated far inland, *Coomassie*, the capital of *Ashantee*, being more than 100 miles distant from the *Gulf of Guinea*; it is a large place, and its inhabitants have been estimated at 18,000, but the power of this monarch has decreased of late. *Cape Coast Castle* is the capital of the *British* settlements on the *Gold Coast*; but forts and factories are also maintained by us at *Accra*, *Annamaboe*, *Dixcove*, *Succondee*, *Cape Apollonia*, &c.: the *Danish* forts of *Christianborg* at *Accra*, *Augustaburg*, *Friedenburg*, *Konigstein*, and *Prinzenstein*, with their other settlements on the coast, were purchased by *Great Britain* in 1850. The principal *Dutch* settlements are *El-Mina* and *Axim*. The *Ivory Coast* extends from *Cape Apollonia* on the E., as far Westward as the village of *Grova* near *Cape Palmas*, which separates it from the *Grain Coast*; it has obtained its name from the great quantity of elephants' teeth, or ivory, brought down to the sea-shore from the interior. Though populous and thickly set with villages, its towns are few and inconsiderable, and are generally situated at the mouths of rivers called by the same names; the chief of them are *Lahou* and *Dromera*. The *Grain Coast*, the Westernmost part

of *Guinea*, extends to the *River Mesurado*, which separates it from the country commonly distinguished by the name of *Senegambia*. It is also called *Malaguetta*, and sometimes the *Pepper Coast*, and derived its appellation of the *Grain Coast* from a certain aromatic plant, which produces a fruit full of seeds, regarded by the *Portuguese* when they first landed on the coast as a delicious luxury, and hence named by them *Grains of Paradise*; as soon, however, as *Europeans* became familiar with the more exquisite aromatics of the *East*, this coarser one fell into disrepute. The ports and towns at which the traders carry on their intercourse with the natives, are very inconsiderable; the chief of them are, *Settra Krou*, *Sanguin*, the *Sesters*, and *Bassas*. On this coast, extending from *Cape Palmas* to the *River Gallinas*, has been formed the Republic of *Liberia*, originally purchased and colonized by the *American Colonization Society*, principally with manumitted slaves; it is now a flourishing state, containing nearly 100,000 free blacks, and exporting palm oil, coffee, indigo, ivory, gold-dust, &c. to the amount of 150,000 *l.* yearly; the seaport and capital, *Monrovia*, has a population of nearly 10,000. The government is vested in a president, senate, and house of representatives.

50. At the Eastern extremity of the *Gulf of Guinea*, or rather in that part of it called the *Bight of Biafra*, is the little island of *Fernando Po*, which now belongs to the *English*, who have formed a settlement there. To the S. W. of it lies *Princes Island*, which obtained its name from having been given to the Prince of *Portugal*: it was discovered by the *Portuguese*, who still keep possession of it. Lower down under the Equinoctial Line, is the *Island of St. Thomas*, likewise belonging to the *Portuguese*; the inhabitants consist partly of negroes from the opposite coasts, and partly of the descendants of those *Portuguese* who were banished hither, as well as to the neighbouring islands, upon their first discovery. To the S. W. of *St. Thomas* lies another *Portuguese* island, known by the name of *Anno Bon*, or *Anna Boa*. Considerably farther to the S. W., in the centre of the *Atlantic Ocean*, and nearly mid-way between the *Cape of Good Hope* and *Sierra Leone*, is the lofty and barren *Island of St. Helena*, which belongs to the *English*, and is generally touched at by ships bound to and from *India*. It has been rendered remarkable in consequence of its having been chosen as the prison of Napoleon Buonaparte, who was sent hither by the allied sovereigns of *Europe* in 1815: he resided here till the year 1821, when he died of an internal cancer. All these islands are fertile, and *St. Helena* supplies vessels returning from the East with provisions and stores; it contains about 5,000 inhabitants; its only town is *James Town*. To the N. W. of *St. Helena* is the *Island of Ascension*, which though entirely barren and uninhabited, is much frequented by ships on account of its many conveniences.

SENEGAMBIA.

51. The country distinguished by the name of *Senegambia* is bounded on the S. by *Guinea*, on the E. by *Soudan*, on the N. by

the Great Desert of *Sahara*, and on the W. by the *Atlantic Ocean*: it includes a superficial extent of about 330,000 square miles, and a population vaguely estimated at 10,000,000 souls. The name is derived from those of the two rivers *Senegal* and *Gambia*, which are the chief sources of its fertility, though there are many other important ones by which it is watered, as the *Rio Grande*, the *Rohelle*, the *Nunez*, and the *Camaranca*. It is divided into a number of petty states and kingdoms, independent of each other, and constantly varying in their limits, owing to the wars which they wage against each other: the inhabitants are mostly blacks, and are sunk in the lowest superstitions of paganism: many of them are Mahometans, having been converted by the *Moors*, who are still found wandering about different parts of the country. The *Mandingoes* are the most numerous, and widely extended of all the native tribes of *Senegambia*; they are now found dispersed almost over the whole country, though they were once confined to the state of *Manding*, whence they derived their name. The *Foulahs* are another powerful race of negroes, and are said to have originally inhabited the country called *Fooladoo*, but they are now found scattered over several of the states in the centre of *Senegambia*. A third great race is that called the *Jaloffs*, *Yaloffs*, or *Oualoffs*, who dwell, generally speaking, between the lower courses of the *Senegal* and *Gambia*, though they are also to be met with in many other parts of the country.

52. Amongst the chief towns of the states of *Senegambia*, may be mentioned *Jenne*, or *Genne*, in *Masina*, situated on an island in the *River Joliba* or *Niger*: *Sego*, on the upper course of the same river, a town counting 25,000 inhabitants; and *Bammahoo*, in *Bambarra*; *Kemmoo*, the capital of *Kaarta*, and *Benownm* of *Ludamar*; *Geba*, in the country of the *Mandingoes*; and *Timboo*, the capital of the *Foulahs*.

53. The *English* colony of *Sierra Leone* is situated on a peninsula near the mouth of the *Rohelle*, in the South Western extremity of *Senegambia*, and on the borders of *Guinea*: it has derived its name from a long ridge of mountains infested with lions, which rises at no great distance from the Southern banks of the river, and terminates in *Cape Shilling*, the South Western point of the peninsula. The settlement of *Sierra Leone* was formed for objects of philanthropy, rather than for political or commercial advantage, the design being to colonize free negroes, and to promote the civilization of *Africa*. Hitherto, however, the advantages derived from it have not kept pace with the dangers and difficulties to which they have given rise; although several towns have been regularly built, and many of the negroes have become industrious farmers, skilful mechanics, and enterprising traders, performing with propriety the various duties of social life. The population of the whole colony amounts to about 20,000 souls: the chief town is *Freetown*; a fort has been erected on *Bance Island*, to command the navigation of the river. The population, which is decreasing in number, may approach 45,000; the unhealthiness of the place can scarcely be exaggerated; it was

erected into a Bishop's See in 1852, and in less than three years it has had two Bishops. Besides *Sierra Leone*, the *English* have other colonies on this coast, the principal of which is that at the mouth of the *Gambia*, the capital of which is named *Bathurst*, and is situated on the Southern side of the river. In 1818 the king of *Barra*, on the opposite shore of the *Gambia*, ceded to our government a long slip of territory, one mile broad, and about sixty long, with the exception of a small spot occupied by the *French* at *Albreda*. This is the most healthy, and perhaps will prove the most important of our settlements on the coast, for the *Gambia* is a river navigable for large vessels for 150 miles, and is supposed to be connected with the *Casamanza*. The population approaches 5,000. The *French* colonies in these regions are commonly distinguished by the name of the *Government of Senegal*, as they lie principally on the banks of this great river. Their chief settlement is *Fort St. Louis*, at the mouth of the river, where they carry on most of their traffic with the natives and the *Moors*, but they have also other establishments higher up the *Senegal* at *Podor*, *St. Joseph* or *Galam*, and *St. Pierre*. Besides these, they possess the island and fort of *Goree*, situated in the little bay which is formed by the promontory of *Cape Verde* on its Southern side; *Portudal* and *Joale* between it and the *Gambia*; and *Albreda*, already mentioned as lying on the Northern bank of that river. The *Portuguese* likewise have a few settlements on the coast of *Senegambia*, the principal of which are *Cacheo* and *Bissao*, to the N. W. of the mouth of the *Gambia*. The *Senegal* is also a large river, its estuary is 30 miles in length, and the cataracts by which it descends from its upper basin 450 miles from the sea; it is navigable for large vessels, but has a bar at the mouth.