



FUNCHAL, ISLAND OF MADEIRA.

## AFRICA.

Area, 11,515,000 square miles, comprising about one-fifth part of the land surface of the globe; greatest length from north to south, 5,000 miles, and from east to west, 4,600 miles; population, estimated at about 205,000,000.

Africa is a vast compact peninsula of a triangular form, almost entirely surrounded by water, and connected only with Asia by the Isthmus of Suez.

It is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean Sea; on the west by the Atlantic Ocean; on the south by the Southern Ocean; and on the east by the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

It may be divided into:

*Northern Africa*, or the Barbary States, comprising Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Tripoli, and Barca.

*The Nile Region*, comprising Egypt, Nubia, and Abyssinia.

*The Sahara.*

*Central Africa*, or Soudan.

*Equatorial Africa*, or the Great Central Lake region.

*Western Africa.*

*Southern Africa*, including Cape Colony, Natal, etc.

*Eastern Africa.*

Less is known of Africa than of any other of the great divisions of the earth; but as many enterprising travellers, such as Livingstone, Barth, Burton, Grant, Speke, Baker, Stanley, Cameron, and others, have lately made it the subject of their explorations, our knowledge of the country is rapidly extending.

The mountains of Africa generally occur, as far as is known, in detached ranges but a short distance from the sea-coast, which also extend inland, and partially enclose

a vast elevated plain in the interior, much of which, especially in the northern parts, is desert, and unfit for cultivation or habitation, while the equatorial region is well watered and fertile.

The *Atlas Mountains*, in the Barbary States, extend eastward from the Atlantic parallel to the Mediterranean Sea, rising to their greatest height in Morocco, over 11,000 feet; and smaller ranges extend from them nearly to the borders of Egypt, but do not rise higher than 3,000 feet. The mountains of *Abyssinia*, in the east, rise in irregular groups from a high table-land, some of them reaching nearly 16,000 feet in height. They are more abrupt to the south than to the north. Parallel to the Gulf of Guinea, and about 150 miles inland, rise the *Kong Mountains*, and farther south, on the shores of the Bight of Biafra, are the *Cameroons*, reaching 13,760 feet. The *Nieuweld Mountains* and some other smaller chains extend from east to west across the central part of Cape Colony, rising in Compass Berg 10,000 feet high. On the east coast of Africa are several chains of mountains, some of which rise to a great height, but are yet little known. *Mounts Kilmandjaro* (20,065 feet) and *Kenia* (18,000 feet) are a little south of the equator. Owing to the general proximity of the mountains to the coast, the rivers are not as numerous, nor, with few exceptions, as important as in the other great continents. The principal is the *Nile*, which has two sources—the Blue Nile, rising in Abyssinia, and the White Nile, the sources of