

which are not yet absolutely ascertained, but the river is at least 4,000 miles long, and receives several tributaries, but none lower than 1,200 miles from its mouth. Next in importance is the *Congo* (an immense river, 3,500 miles long, rising in the lake region south of the equator, and flowing, after a very circuitous course, into the South Atlantic, and second only to the Amazon in the volume of its waters). The *Niger*, or *Quorra*, rises on the north side of the Kong Mountains, receives a large tributary, the *Benue*, and flows round the eastern end of that range into the Gulf of Guinea. The *Senegal* flows into the North Atlantic Ocean: and the *Orange*, or *Gariiep*, into the South Atlantic; and the *Zambesi* into the Mozambique Channel.

The principal lakes of Africa, as far as are yet known, are: *Dembea*, in Abyssinia; *Tshad*, in the interior; *Albert* and *Victoria Nyanzis*, under the equator; and *Tanganyika*, *Leopold*, east of Tanganyika, *Bangweolo*, on the shore of which Livingstone died, *Nyassa*, and *Shirica*, with *Ngami*, farther south. Most of these have been recently discovered, and are but imperfectly known.

The coast-line of Africa is very even and unbroken, with but few indentations.

The Principal Bays, Gulfs, etc., are:

On the north, the <i>Gulfs of Sidra</i> and <i>Gades</i> .	On the south, <i>Table Bay</i> and <i>Algoa Bay</i> .
On the west, the <i>Gulf of Guinea</i> , including the <i>Bights of Benin</i> and <i> Biafra</i> .	On the east, <i>Sofala Bay</i> , <i>Gulf of Aden</i> , and the <i>Red Sea</i> .

The Principal Straits are:

<i>Gibraltar</i> , between Marocco and Spain; <i>Mozambique Channel</i> , between Madagascar and the main-	land; <i>Strait of Babelmandeb</i> , between Abyssinia and Arabia.
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The Principal Capes are:

On the north, <i>Bon, Blanco, Ceuta</i> .	On the east, <i>Corrientes, Delgado</i> , and <i>Guardafui</i> ; and <i>Capes Amber</i> and <i>St. Mary</i> , the north and south points of Madagascar.
On the west, <i>Blanco, Verde, Palma, Lopez</i> , and <i>Prio</i> .	
On the south, <i>Good Hope</i> and <i>Aguilhas</i> .	

The climate of Africa is in general hot and dry, more than three-fourths of the continent being within the tropics. Towards the middle and south the seasons are alternately dry and wet, as in other tropical countries; but in the vast sandy deserts no rain ever falls. The Sahara extends from the Atlantic Ocean to Egypt, and occupies an area greater than that of the Dominion of Canada. It is not, as commonly supposed, a sandy desert, but a vast plain, having a mean elevation of about 1,500 feet, and diversified with mountain chains as high as from 6,500 to 8,200 feet, whose tops are covered with snow and ice for several months in the year. The sandy desert portions do not occupy more than one-fifth of its entire area of 3,700,000 square miles. Its total population is estimated at 3,000,000; and there are many towns of from 5,000 to 10,000 people. Along the shore of the Mediterranean the climate and productions resemble those of Southern Europe; but in the interior it becomes

hotter, and the products vary. South of the Sahara, both on the coast and the great central lake region, vegetation is rank, and the climate in general most unhealthy for Europeans. Cape Colony, being within the southern temperate zone, is cooler and more healthy. The soil of Africa along the courses of the rivers is fertile, producing trees of great size, many of them indigenous to the country, and many valuable plants. There are the shea, or butter-tree, baobab, or monkey-bread tree (a gigantic tree sometimes thirty feet in diameter), oil-palm, and other trees. Cotton, indigo, maize, rice, and yams grow in abundance; south of Abyssinia is the native country of the coffee plant.

Africa possesses a large number and variety of wild animals, such as the lion, leopard, hyena, giraffe, elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, crocodile, monkey, etc., besides a great variety of antelopes.

The inhabitants of Africa consist of different races, varying in complexion from the tawny Moor to the blackest negro. The negroes are the most numerous, constituting almost the entire population south of the Sahara. In the Barbary States the Moors belong to the Caucasian race, while the Egyptians in the Nile region are, by some ethnologists, thought to be akin to the natives of Australia, and the Dravidian races of Southern India. In the south are also the Hottentots, a stunted, degraded race. The inhabitants in the north, and as far south as 5° north latitude, are chiefly Mohammedans; and, except where settlements of Europeans have been made, the rest are chiefly pagans or heathens.

The trade and products of the country are trifling, owing to the ignorance and generally degraded state of the inhabitants. The Barbary States export grain and leather; Egypt exports cotton and grain; and the west and south yield palm oil, ivory, and a little gold dust. On the south-west and east coasts the inhuman trade in slaves is still carried on to some extent, notwithstanding the vigilant efforts of the British to put it down.

NORTHERN, or BARBARY STATES.

MAROCÇO.

Area, 313,650 square miles; one half larger than Quebec; population, about 6,140,000.

The Empire of Marocco occupies the north-western corner of Africa, between the Sahara, the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and Algeria. It is the most important of the Barbary States in power and population. These States were celebrated in ancient history under the name of Mauritania, but have now been long sunk under tyranny and oppression. Their power has declined, and their naval force, long used for piratical purposes, has been destroyed by the British and other European Powers since the beginning of the present century.