

Cape Town (45,000), on the south-west shore of Table Bay, is the chief city and seat of the colonial Parliament. Table Mountain, 3,580 feet high, rises south of the town, and is so called from its flat summit. Vines are extensively cultivated on its slopes. The other towns of importance are *Graham's Town*, 500 miles to the east of Cape Town, *Port Elizabeth* (13,049), and *Kimberly* (13,590).

British Kaffraria, formerly a separate colony, was in 1865 formed into a district of Cape Colony. It is separated by the Great Kei River from native Kaffraria. The Kaffirs are a fierce people, often at war with the British.

Natal was formed into a colony in 1845. It lies to the north of British Kaffraria. Coal and iron are abundant, and cotton, indigo, and sugar are easily cultivated. The population is about 365,000. *Port Natal* is the seaport, and *Pietermaritzburg*, 50 miles inland, the capital.

To the north of Cape Colony are the Dutch republics, *Transvaal* and *Orange Free State*. These are peopled chiefly by natives and by Dutch boers, or farmers, who have formed them into independent republics.

Between the Dutch republics and the Atlantic is the country of the Bechuanas, Namaquas, and Damaras, an inoffensive, pastoral people. The Zulus are a warlike tribe of Kaffirs whose territory lies north of Natal.

EASTERN AFRICA.

The countries on the eastern coast of Africa are still little known, although opened up by recent enterprise.

SOMALI, between the Strait of Babelmandeb and Cape Guardafui, is celebrated for its myrrh and spices, which are exported through Arabia. *Ajan* is barren along the coast, but fertile in the interior. **ZANGUEBAR** is low and marshy, and unhealthy towards the sea. To the west are the ranges of mountains which enclose the table-lands of Central Africa, with the peaks of *Kilmandjaro* (20,065 feet) and *Kenia* (18,000 feet). The Sultan of Zanzibar claims sovereignty over the countries as far south as Cape Delgado. From there to Cape Delagoa, including **MOZAMBIQUE** and **SOBALA**, the Portuguese hold authority. They formerly possessed the whole eastern coast, but have been gradually driven away. Their principal posts are *Sena* and *Tete*, on the Zambesi River.

ISLANDS OF AFRICA.

MADAGASCAR.

Area, 228,570 square miles; rather larger than the province of Quebec; population, 3,000,000.

Madagascar is the largest of the African Islands, and is separated from the east coast of Africa by the Mozambique Channel.

Lofty mountains traverse it from north to south, approaching nearest to the eastern shore. The climate is

hot, and the soil fertile, producing rice and sugar abundantly. Iron is found in the mountains. The government is despotic. Christianity, to which the natives were formerly hostile, has now become the established religion. *Tananarico* (80,000), the capital, is situated on a lofty table-land, near the centre of the island. *Tamatave*, on the east coast, is the principal seaport.

Socotra, in the Indian Ocean, about 120 miles east of Cape Guardafui, is a large island belonging to the Sultan of Keshin in Arabia, producing the finest aloes.

BRITISH ISLANDS.

Ascension, a small island in the Atlantic, is frequented by ships as a place of call on the voyage to the Cape. *St. Helena*, 850 miles south-east of Ascension, is famous as the place of exile of Napoleon Bonaparte, where he died in 1821. *Mauritius* (366,000), a considerable island, formerly called the Isle of France, is 480 miles to the east of Madagascar. Port Louis (66,000) is the capital and seaport. *Rodriguez*, east of Mauritius, the *Seychelles* and *Amirante Islands*, north-east of Madagascar, and the *Chagres* group, farther east, are dependencies of Mauritius, and are of little importance.

FRENCH ISLANDS.

Réunion, or **Bourbon** (184,000), rather larger than Mauritius, lies 90 miles south-west of it. It is of volcanic formation, and contains one active volcano in the south. It produces coffee and sugar largely. *Mount Piton des Neiges* is 10,000 feet high. France also possesses some small islands in the *Comoro* group, in the north of the Mozambique Channel, and some on the coast of Madagascar, which are dependencies of Réunion.

PORTUGUESE ISLANDS.

Madeira (132,000), a beautiful island, rising abruptly from the Atlantic, 360 miles west of Morocco. It consists of a mass of volcanic rock, the highest summit being about 6,000 feet. It is celebrated for its wines and for its salubrious climate. *Funchal* is the chief town. The *Cape Verde Islands* (90,000), about 320 miles west of Cape Verde, are also of volcanic formation. A volcano in Fogo, one of the islands, is about 9,200 feet high. *St. Iago* is the principal island. *St. Thomas* and *Prince's Islands*, in the Gulf of Guinea, also belong to Portugal.

SPANISH ISLANDS.

The **Canaries** (280,000), off the north-west coast of Africa, seven in number, contain lofty volcanic mountains. Their chief product is wine. The Peak of Tenerife rises about 12,200 feet in height. *Santa Cruz*, in Tenerife, is the capital, but *Palma* is the largest town. *Fernando Po* and *Annabon* are small islands in the Gulf of Guinea.