

the neighbouring country ; as the Appennines, in Italy ; the Pyrenees, between France and Spain ; the Alps, in Switzerland ; and the Andes, in South America.

The parts into which the WATERS are distributed, are oceans, seas, lakes, straits, gulphs, bays, creeks, and rivers.

The LAND is divided into two great continents, besides islands, the *Eastern* and the *Western Continents*.

The EASTERN CONTINENT comprehends Europe, on the north-west ; Asia, on the north-east ; and Africa, joined to Asia by the isthmus of Suez, which is only sixty miles in breadth, on the south.

The WESTERN CONTINENT consists of North and South America, united by the isthmus of Darien, which, in the narrowest part, is only twenty-five miles across from ocean to ocean.

Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, with some impropriety, are denominated THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD. They differ greatly from each other in extent of country, in the nature of the climate, and the productions of the soil ; in the manners, complexion, and character of their inhabitants ; and in their forms of government, their national customs, and religion.

The POPULATION of these grand divisions of the globe is by no means equal and proportionate. Asia, which has always been considered as the quarter first occupied by the human race, is supposed to contain about 500 millions of inhabitants. The population of Africa may be 100 millions ; of America, 25 millions ; and 150 millions are assigned to Europe ; whilst New Holland and the isles of the Pacific, probably, do not contain above half a million.

The immense spaces, which lie between these great continents, are filled by the waters of the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Indian Oceans, and of the seas about the Poles.

The PACIFIC OCEAN occupies nearly half the surface of the globe, from the eastern shores of New Holland to the western coasts of America. The extensive newly discovered lands in the South Pacific, now bear the general name of AUSTRALASIA, and are equal in extent to all Europe, under the names of New Holland, New Guinea, Van Dieman's Land, &c. &c.

The ATLANTIC, or WESTERN OCEAN, which is the next in importance, divides the old continent from the new.

The INDIAN OCEAN lies between the East Indies and Africa.