

3. Nearly all the towns are surrounded by walls, and are inhabited some by two and others by three different tribes. They are in consequence divided into corresponding sections. Furious contests often occur between the tribes in these towns, in which event the gates connecting the different quarters are closed, until peace is restored. Eghwaat, Tuggurt, and Gadames, are the principal towns.



### THE GREAT DESERT.

4. THE Great Desert stretches from the Atlantic ocean almost to the river Nile. It is composed of vast sandy plains, swept by hot winds, and parched by a burning sun.

5. The Desert is here and there diversified with watered and fertile spots, called *oases*; of these, Fezzan, Tibesty, Bilmah, Agdass, and Tuat, are the principal. That part of the Great Desert extending from Fezzan to the Atlantic is called by the Arabs the Sahara, while the eastern and smaller section is most usually termed the Libyan Desert.

6. Fezzan is the largest of the oases, and is tributary to Tripoli. It is principally important as the centre of the caravan trade. Its inhabitants are reckoned at 70,000; they possess but little energy, and are imperfectly acquainted with the arts. Mourzouk, the capital, a small mud-walled town, is 600 miles nearly south from Tripoli.

7. The central part of the Desert is occupied by the Tibboos and the Tuaricks. The former are as black as negroes, but of a different

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States, &c.? 3. Towns? 4. Describe the Great Desert. 5. How is it diversified? What is the Sahara, &c.? 6. What is said of Fezzan?