



AN AFRICAN SCENE.

Zambesi is the only large river passing east to the Indian Ocean. The others have an Atlantic outlet. This great preponderance of westward water-flow is owing to the superior elevation of the eastern rim of this insular continent. All of these rivers have their fountains on a plateau nearly a mile above marine level; they fall so rapidly in the short distance between the outer rim of the middle plateau and the ocean, that an almost inconceivable amount

of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales combined. It is one-fourth of the land surface of the earth.

The population is variously estimated to be from 150,000,000 to 250,000,000 and it has a sufficient natural productive capacity to support more than as many people as all now living on the earth. These populations and areas are divided between the following fifteen principal countries: Abyssinia, Algeria, Cape Colony, Congo Free State, Egypt, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Natal, Nubia, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Tunis and Zanzibar. No city is conclusively settled on as the capital of the Congo Free State, but the following are the capitals of the other States in their order as above with their approximate population: Gondar, 7,000; Algiers, 70,000; Cape Town, 33,000; Cairo, the largest city in Africa, 368,000; Monrovia, 3,000; Tananarivo, 100,000; Morocco, 50,000; Mozambique, 55,000; Petermaritzburg, 14,000; Dongola, 11,000; Bloemfontein, 3,000; Pretoria, 5,000; Tunis, 120,000; Zanzibar, 90,000.

Excepting the Amazon, the Congo is the largest river in the world. It has a volume equal to fifty Mississippi's before the influx of the Missouri—a volume so vast and so swift that it drives back the Atlantic and offers fresh water nine miles out at sea. The Nile, the Niger, the Orange and Zambesi are the other principal streams. The Nile is the only stream of any considerable size flowing north—it empties into the Mediterranean, and the

of hydraulic power is concentrated near the sea, and yet mostly above the fevered air strata of the coast level, the Congo alone having the power of hundreds of Niagaras between Stanley Pool and the inner edge of the coast range. These stupendous rapids and cataracts have for thousands of years beaten back explorers who attempted to unlock the hidden mysteries of the "Dark Continent." Niagara is dwarfed by the Zambesi's plunge of many times its volume, 350 feet, as at Victoria Falls. The size, but more especially the elevation, of the great lakes is quite as remarkable as any other feature of African physical geography. Victoria Nyanza (the fountain of the Nile sought by Herodotus) has an area of 21,000 square miles and an elevation of 4,000 feet. Either Nyassa or Tanganyika would reach from Boston to Washington, D.C., and while the latter is not so wide as Lake Superior its depths are so profound as to make it really larger. It has an elevation of 2,755 feet above the sea, while Superior has only 600. Abyssinia, the Switzerland of Africa, has Lake Dembea, a lacustrine gem of the upper air. Excepting Titicaca in South America, it is probably the highest lake in the world.

The mountain formations are on a correspondingly grand scale. Kilimanjaro wears its snow crown about 20,000 feet skyward, in the regions of eternal ice, yet nearly under the equator. Hundreds of thousands of square miles of the central portion may fairly be considered as a mountain plateau far above the highest crest of the Alleg-