

establishments, principally constructed of lava, faced with magnesian limestone from Malta and Syracuse, and enriched with marbles from the ruins, are magnificent. The city is nobly situated, on the roots of *Ætna*, its despoiler and its benefactor. Overwhelmed, as it has often been, by torrents of liquid fire, it has risen, like the phoenix, more splendid from its ashes. The very substance which once ravaged its plains has, by its own decomposition, covered them with soil fertile as the fabled garden of the Hesperides; and on all sides the material of destruction is turned to the purposes of ornament and utility. The streets are paved with lava; houses, palaces, and churches, are built of lava; of lava they form ornamental chimney-pieces, tables, and a variety of toys; whilst a natural mole of lava defends the shipping from the fury of the tempest. The cathedral, founded in 1094, was rebuilt on a simple and grand scale, after the earthquake of 1693; the senate-house, *monte di pietà*, theatre, and most of the municipal establishments, are also fine, appropriate buildings. Near the cathedral is a fine square, ornamented with an antique statue of an elephant bearing on its back an obelisk. It has 49 churches, of which that of St. Maria dell' Ajuto, and several others, are magnificent structures; it has also 19 convents for men, and 11 for women. The Benedictine convent of San Nicolò d'Arena has long been justly celebrated for its vast extent, superb church, excellent organ, large museum, ancient mosaics, and great riches. Among the charitable establishments, exclusive of the *monte di pietà*, are several hospitals, a workhouse, a foundling hospital, a lying-in hospital, and a Magdalen asylum. The university, founded in 1445 by Alphonso of Aragon, is an extensive foundation with an annual revenue of above 2,000*l*. It has able professors, and is well attended; its library and museums are open on holidays to the public. The heirs of Prince Biscari and others have also fine museums. Catania is the seat of a bishopric, of a court of appeal, a criminal court, a civil court, and of the provincial authorities; and enjoys extensive privileges. The humanity, hospitality, and good-breeding of the inhabitants have been eulogised by all travellers. On many occasions they have shown a singular unanimity in public affairs; they had the courage to practise inoculation so early as 1742, and to introduce the potato while an ignorant prejudice existed against it among their neighbours. The principal manufacture is that of silk, which is largely carried on. The working of the yellow amber found on the S. coast of the island affords employment to some thousands of the population. The snow of Mount *Ætna* is also a great source of wealth. The harbour is not equal to the importance of the city; but it is generally full of small craft that resort thither for corn, macaroni, potatoes, olives, figs, silk, wine, almonds, cheese, oil, soda, manna, cantharides, amber, snow, and lava. The environs are fruitful, and well cultivated.

Catania is very ancient. It is believed to have been founded by the Chalcidians, and had Charondas for its early legislator. Under the Romans, it was the residence of a pretor, and was adorned with many noble buildings. Owing, however, to the repeated occurrence of earthquakes, and the irruption of lava from *Ætna*, its ancient monuments have been mostly destroyed; but the remains of its amphitheatre, the circumference of which exceeds even that of the colosseum, as well as of its theatre, odeum, hippodrome, temples, aqueducts, baths, &c., attest its former extent and magnificence.

CATANZARO, a town of Southern Italy, prov.

Cosenza, in a healthy and agreeable situation, on a mountain near the Gulf of Squillace, 29 m. SSE. Cosenza. Pop. 11,464 in 1862. The town suffered very severely from the dreadful earthquake of 1783, which overthrew several of its principal buildings; it still, however, has a cathedral, several churches and convents, a seminary, a royal academy of science, a lyceum, a foundling hospital, a *monte di pietà*, and two hospitals; and is defended by a castle. It is the seat of a bishopric, of one of the four great civil courts of the kingdom, of a criminal court, and of an ordinary civil tribunal. There are considerable manufactures of silk, velvet, and cloth, and a good deal of trade is carried on in silk, corn, cattle, wine, and oil. The inhabitants are affable and industrious, and the women are reckoned the handsomest in the three Calabrias.

CATEAU-CAMHRESIS, a town of France, dép. du Nord, cap. cant., on the Sallé, 15 m. ESE. Cambray, on the Northern railway. Pop. 9,212 in 1861. The town was formerly fortified; and has manufactures of starch, soap, and tobacco, with tanneries, and some trade in lace. It is celebrated in diplomatic history for the treaty concluded in it, in 1559, between France and Spain.

CATHERINA (SANTA), or NOSSA SENHORA DO DESTERRO, a marit. city of Brazil, cap. prov. St. Catherine, on the W. side of the island of same name, on the narrow strait separating it from the mainland, 520 m. SW. Rio Janeiro; lat. 27° 36' S., long. 48° 46' W. Pop. probably from 5,000 to 6,000. From the landing place in the harbour, which is at the bottom of a verdant slope of about 500 yards, the town has a most beautiful appearance, and the perspective is nobly crowned by its fine cathedral. The green is interspersed with orange trees, and forms an agreeable parade. The houses are well built, have two or three stories with boarded floors, and are provided with neat gardens well stocked with excellent vegetables and flowers. Besides the church of Nossa Senhora do Desterro, which gives name to the place, there were some years ago two chapels, a convent, an hospicio, and good barracks. Notwithstanding its excellent port and convenient situation, the trade of the town is not very considerable; but it is frequently visited by ships passing to and from the Pacific, and by those in the S. Sea whale-fishery. Sperm-whales used to be frequent on this coast, and even in the bay of St. Catherine, but they are now comparatively rare. There are some manufactures of coarse cotton and linen stuffs, and earthenware.

The island of St. Catherine may be entirely circumnavigated, and many good anchorages are found between its W. coast and the continent; but the N. part of the channel is the only one suitable for large vessels. Here they anchor in 5 fathoms on a mud bottom which holds well, and are protected from all winds, except from the NE., which are rarely dangerous. Opposite to the town the channel narrows, and the depth of water decreases to 2 fathoms. The roadstead is defended by two forts. This is one of the very best places at which to relict: excellent water may be had in any quantity for nothing, and provisions of all kinds are cheap and abundant.

The island of St. Catherine is about 35 m. in length, N. to S., and from 4 to 8 m. in width. Its shores rise abruptly from the sea to such a height, that in fair weather it is visible 45 m. off. Its most N. extremity, Point Rupa, is in lat. 27° 22' 31' N., long. 48° 32' 7' W. The surface of the island is singularly varied, presenting granite mountains, fertile plains, swamps fit for the growth of rice, lakes stocked with fish, and several