

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## NATURAL GEOGRAPHY.

**DIVISIONS.** **T**HE territories of the United States are classed under three grand divisions, the northern, the middle, and the southern.

The Northern States are Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the small province of Rhode Island. The district of Main in this quarter belongs to the province of Massachusetts Bay; and its eastern boundary, according to Morse, extends to a river called St. Croix, long. 67 deg. west from London: while on the north what is called Albany ridge, which seems an elongation of the Apalachian mountains, divides it from the British possessions; but these boundaries were contested by the British settlers in Nova Scotia. These northern states have been known, since the year 1614, by the special appellation of **NEW ENGLAND**, and are remarkable for the comparative smallness of the subdivisions, the five provinces being only of similar extent with New York, Pennsylvania, or Virginia.

The Middle States are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana territory.

The Southern States are Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and the Mississippi territory.

These provinces are subdivided into counties, an enumeration of which rather belongs to topography.

**BOUNDARIES.**—The eastern boundary is the Atlantic Ocean, and the western the great river Mississippi, which is considered as a limit of Spanish America. On the north an ideal line, pervading the great lakes of Canada, is continued along the river St. Lawrence to lat. 45 deg. not far to the south of Montreal; when it passes due east, and follows a chain of mountains north-east, and afterwards diverges south-east to the river St. Croix, which falls into the bay of Fundi. On the south a line, merely arbitrary, about lat. 31 deg. divides the United

States from the Spanish dominions of West and East Florida.

**EXTENT.**—The greatest extent of the united territory is from east to west, in the northern part, where it exceeds 1300 British miles; and the line along the shores of the Atlantic nearly corresponds; but the breadth, from the Canadian lakes to the southern limit, is about 1000 British miles. The square acres have been computed at 640 millions; and those covered with water being supposed 51 millions, there will remain 589 millions of acres.

**CLIMATE.**—The climate of the United territories, as already mentioned, is chiefly remarkable for sudden transitions from heat to cold, and the contrary. The wind from the north-east is violently cold, as it passes a wide expanse of the frozen continent. In the plains on the east of the Apalachian chain the summer heats are immoderate; and in some places even ice will not preserve poultry or fish from putrefaction. Towards the mountains the climate is salutary even in the southern states, as is evinced by the bloom of the damsels in the back settlements of Virginia. In the northern states the winter is longer and more severe than in England, but the summer heat more intense. A north-east wind commonly attends rain, while on the west side of the Apalachian mountains a south-west has that effect. In Georgia the winter is very mild, snow being seldom seen, and the east wind is there the warmest.

This excessive heat of the plains must be regarded as one cause of that fatal pestilential malady called the yellow fever, which first appeared at Philadelphia in 1793, and has since too frequently repeated its ravages in various cities of the commonwealth. Several medical men have treated this subject with considerable care and ability, but do not seem to have examined whether any similar disease was before known on the continent, and what method of cure was practised. Alzate, in his fugitive remarks on the natural history of Mexico, has