

Climate, Rivers, &c.—The great extent of the rainless regions seems to be one of the principal causes of the high temperature of this continent. Nearly all the countries of Africa are hotter than those of Asia and America. The highest degree of heat is experienced in the Sahara and the countries bordering the Great Desert. In Soodan, in about 10° N. lat., and at no great distance from the Sahara, the temperature sometimes descends at night to the freezing point. The largest river is the Nile, which probably has a course of not less than 2,500 miles; the Quorra or Joliba, the Niger of the ancients, has a probable course of 2,000 miles, the Senegal 1,000, and the Gambia 700 miles. The largest lake is that of Tchad.

Races, &c.—There are about seven ascertainable varieties; viz. the Hottentot, Kaffer, Abyssinian, Egyptian, Numidian, Nubian, and Negro. Féticism in its most degrading and offensive form is the religion of the greater number of the inhabitants of Africa, but where this idolatry is not practised Mohammedism is the substitute. With the exception of Egypt and Abyssinia all the science and literature to be found are of Arabic origin. The Arabs, in the regions of the Nile, have schools in Cairo, Merow, and Darfour; in Barbary, Morocco, Fez, Algiers, Tunis, &c. There are schools among the Mandingoes, Foulahs, Jolofs, and other Mohammedan nations of central Negritia or Soudan.

Government, &c.—Despotism in its worst form is the prevailing government of Africa. Slavery and anarchy reigns triumphant. Industry is at the lowest ebb. Except where they are associated with or have been instructed by Europeans or Arabs, the Africans have made little progress in the arts. All the more laborious occupations are devolved on females; and in some parts the wives of kings or petty princes are made to till the land for the support of their barbarian lords. Since the fall of Carthage no African people has had the smallest claim to be called maritime. In some places the natives fit out a sort of large cutter, not for trade or fishing, but for piracy.

EGYPT.

EGYPT, a country on both banks of the Nile occupying the N. E. angle of the African continent. One of the earliest seats of art, science, and literature, and famous alike for the historical events of which it has been the theatre; its magnificent monuments, and physical character. The whole cultivable territory including its lateral