

as there are in Europe. This is a great disadvantage to trade.

732. The *Strait of Gibraltar*, on the north-west, is a narrow passage connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. The *Red Sea* and the *Gulf of Aden* are on the east, and the *Gulf of Guinea* is on the west.

Within a few years the *Suez Canal* has been constructed from Port Said on the Mediterranean, to Suez on the Gulf of Suez. Ships are thus able to pass from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and greatly shorten their route between Europe and India.

The principal capes are—*Bon, Guardafui, Good Hope*, and *Verd*.

733. The principal islands on the coast are—*Socotra, Madagascar, Bourbon, and Mauritius*, on the east; and the *Madeira Islands, Canary Islands, Cape Verd Islands*, and *St. Helena*, on the west.

734. *Madagascar* is one of the largest islands in the world. It has about half as many inhabitants as the Dominion of Canada. *Tananarivo* is the capital.

735. *St. Helena* is a small rocky island. Napoleon I. of France was so troublesome, disturbing all Europe with his wars, that after the Battle of Waterloo, the British Government banished him to St. Helena.

Area.—736. Africa is nearly one and a half times the size of North America.

Surface.—737. That part of Africa which borders on the sea is generally quite low; the interior is table-land.

The mountains are not so grand as those in the other great divisions of the Earth. The *Atlas Mountains* lie along the north; the *Kong Mountains* and the *Cameroon Mountains* are near the Gulf of Guinea; the *Snow Mountains* are in the south; and the *Mountains of Abyssinia*, and other mountains, extend along the east.

Mount *Killmandjaro*, on the east coast, a little south of the Equator, is the highest mountain in Africa.

Rivers and Lakes.—738. Africa has four large rivers—the *Nile*, the *Niger*, the *Congo*, and the *Zambesi*. The large lakes are, *Albert Nyanza, Victoria Nyanza, Tanganyika*, and *Nyassa*. *Lake Tchad* is also an important lake. The lakes of Central Africa have not been fully explored; hence their size and form are not accurately known.

739. The *Nile* is a very long river, as long as the Mississippi, and it is the most remarkable river in the world. Many ages ago, when only the northern part of Africa was known, people wondered where the waters of the Nile came from. It seems strange to see so great a river flowing hundreds and hundreds of miles through countries in which it never rains. And then every year, in the month of June, without any rain or any small streams flowing in, the river begins to rise, and for three months it rises higher and higher, until all Egypt is covered with water! But in modern times travellers have gone far back into the middle of Africa, and discovered the sources of this strange river. Here at the Equator they have found two large lakes, which they have named the *Victoria Nyanza* and the *Albert Nyanza*, from which the river flows. They have discovered other rivers also, which come from the mountains of Abyssinia, and help to form the great Nile. In the early summer months, the rains fall in torrents on the mountains, and the waters rush down until they come to Egypt, where the land is so level and the river-banks so low, that they flow over all the country.

740. The *Niger*, in Western Africa, flows through a hot, marshy, and unhealthy country.

741. The *Congo*, in Southern Africa, has its source in Lake Tanganyika. Next to the Amazon it is the largest river in the world.

742. The *Zambesi* is noted for its great cataract known as *Victoria Falls*.

Climate and Products.—743. Africa is the hottest part of the Earth, and a large portion of it consists of rainless deserts. South of the Atlas Mountains is the great *Sahara*, the largest desert in the world, on which rain seldom falls, and where it is so hot that eggs can be cooked in the burning sand.

744. Travelling through Africa from north to south, we first cross the Barbary States, which have a temperate climate, and yield grain, olives, grapes, and mulberries. On the Atlas Mountains are forests of oak, beech, and juniper. The snow lies deep on the cold summits through the winter, and in the spring it melts and sends streams to the lowlands. The streams on the southern slopes flow down to the borders of the desert, forming many a cheerful spot on the margin of that dreary waste; but they are soon lost in the hot sand or in salt lakes. This region is occupied by wandering shepherds, just as we found near the deserts of



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