

jaws projecting, and the chin small. In disposition the negro is joyous, flexible, and indolent; while the many nations which compose this race present a singular diversity of intellectual character, of which the far extreme is the lowest grade of humanity.

17. The Negro Family.
18. The Caffrarian Family.
19. The Hottentot Family.
20. The Oceanic-Negro Family.
21. The Australian Family.
22. The Alforian Family.

1. THE CAUCASIAN FAMILY.

This family, the type of the Caucasian Race, derives its name from the mountainous region of Caucasus, between the Black Sea and the Caspian, a spot to which history and tradition refer the primeval family of man. The spontaneous fertility of this tract has rendered it the hive of many nations, which extending their migrations in every direction, have peopled the finest portions of the earth, and given birth to its fairest inhabitants. On the present occasion we propose to notice the Caucasian family as consisting of three branches, the Caucasian proper, the Persian, and the Pelagic.

1. The *Caucasians proper* are confined to the valleys and mountains of Caucasus. They are extremely numerous, and embrace many primitive tribes which differ in language, yet possess, in common, certain prominent physical characters. Independent of these aboriginal nations, it is said that five great immigrations of foreigners form as many epochs in the history of this country. These nations are the Lesghi, the Ghasazes, the Mongols, the Arabs, and the Tartars. The languages spoken are scarcely inferior in number to the remnants of nations. "There are villages perfectly insulated, each of which is a complete nation, whose language is not in the least comprehended by the people in the next village to them, and is spoken nowhere else."^{*} Hence the observation of Major Rennel, that this remarkable tract, which forms an isthmus between the nations of the north and south, seems to have retained a specimen of each passing tribe from the date of the earliest migration.†

A few only of the most prominent of these nations will be noticed on the present occasion.

^{*} TOOME'S RUSSIA, II, p. 107.

[†] FREYGAN, CAUCASUS, p. 51.