



730. SCENE ON THE NILE.

CHAPTER V.

A F R I C A .

History.—728. Excepting those countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, little was known of Africa in ancient times. About the time of the discovery of America, some bold navigators of Southern Europe kept sailing further and further south, until finally they went round the Cape of Good Hope, and found their way to India.

729. It was a long time after this before the countries in the interior of Africa were visited by civilized people. Indeed, although many distinguished men have lately travelled much among the Negroes of Central and Southern Africa, our knowledge concerning this part of the world is yet quite limited. Travellers here are exposed to great hardships and

dangers. There are no roads; in many places the climate is unhealthy; and some of the Negroes are fierce savages.

Position.—730. The greater part of Africa is in the Torrid Zone, and no part of it extends to the cold regions of the north or south.

Africa is surrounded by the sea on all sides, except at the north-east, where it is connected with Asia by the *Isthmus of Suez*. It has the *Mediterranean Sea* on the north, the *Red Sea* and *Indian Ocean* on the east, and the *Atlantic Ocean* on the west.

Coast.—731. We observe from the Map of Africa that there are no deep bays along the coast,