

EUROPE.

IV.—GENERAL VIEW.

1. *Boundaries, &c.*—Europe is the north-western part of the Old Continent, and is much smaller than either Asia or Africa.* It is bounded on the north by the Northern Ocean, on the west by the Atlantic, and on the south by the Mediterranean Sea, which separates it from Africa. The eastern boundary is formed in part by the Archipelago, the Sea of Marmara, the Black Sea, and the Sea of Azov, with the connecting Straits of the Hellespont, of Constantinople, and Ienikale or Ienikali;† and partly by the Uralian Mountains, part of the river Don, and an uncertain line between them, coinciding for some length with the Volga.‡

* 1. The length of Europe, from Cape St. Vincent to the north-eastern extremity of Russia, is about 3300 miles; and its breadth, from the Sea of Azov to the western coast of Norway, about 1650 miles, or half its length. It is situated between the thirty-sixth and seventy-first parallels of north latitude; and between the tenth degree of west, and the sixtieth of east longitude. Hence, it is all contained in the northern temperate zone, except a part of Lapland, and a small portion of Russia, which are in the northern frigid. The heat and cold are accordingly, in general, moderate; though the southern parts are hot in summer, and the northern very cold in winter.

+ 2. The Archipelago, the name of which is probably a corruption of *Argelopolagus*, the *Argive* or *Grecian Sea*, was formerly called the *Ægean Sea*; the Sea of Marmara, the Propontis, the Black Sea, the Euxine Sea, the Sea of Azov, the Palus Mæotis; the Strait of Ienikale, the Cimærian Bosphorus or Bosphorus; and the Strait or Canal of Constantinople, the Thracian Bosphorus. The Hellespont is also called the Dardanelles, from Dardania, a place belonging to ancient Troy, which was near it. The Sea of Azov is shallow and muddy, and without rocks; and hence the origin of its ancient name, *palus* in Latin signifying a *marsh*, or a *pool of standing water*. The Hellespont is so narrow, that, besides others, Lord Byron swam across it of late, as Leander is said to have done in ancient times. At its narrowest part, it is about half a mile wide. The Strait of Constantinople is still narrower; so that birds can be heard singing and dogs barking across it, and persons on its opposite shores can converse with each other. Through both the Hellespont and Bosphorus, a current sets with considerable velocity towards the Archipelago; and a like current flows into the Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar. The Strait of Ienikale, or Yenikale, is generally, but improperly, called the Strait of Caffa, the town of that name being at a considerable distance from it.

‡ 3. Malte Brun extends Europe to the Caspian Sea, taking as the boundary north of the Sea of Azov, "the Ural mountains, the river of the same name, the Caspian, and the lowest level between it and the Sea of Azov (a level indicated by the courses of the Manytch and the Kuma);" the Don forming a small part of the limit. The boundary adopted above is more generally received. The matter, however, is of small consequence; and its determination naturally rests principally with Russia.