

extensive rivers, the courses of which are correctly known, which enter the Pacific Ocean from the continent of North America.

Divisions. North America comprises three great divisions: 1st, British America, in the north; 2d, the United States, in the middle; and 3d, Mexico and Guatemala, or Central America, in the south: in addition to these, Greenland, in the north-east, belongs to Denmark; and there are Russian possessions in the north-west.

Islands. The most important islands are Newfoundland, Cape Breton, St. John's, Rhode Island, Long Island, and the Bermudes, on the eastern coast; Queen Charlotte's Island, Quadra and Vancouver's Island, King George's Island, and the Fox Islands, on the western coast.

Bays, Gulfs, and Lakes. The five largest Bays, or Gulfs, are Baffin's and Hudson's bays; and the gulfs of St. Lawrence, Mexico, and California. The Lakes of North America are the largest collections of fresh water in the world. Some of the principal ones are lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, Ontario, Winnipeg, Athapescow, Slave Lake, and Great Bear Lake. The largest of these great lakes is lake Superior, which is 400 miles in length, and is as much affected by storms as the ocean. It is remarkable for the transparency of its waters, and abounds in fish. The Pictured Rocks, on the south side of lake Superior, are a range of precipitous cliffs, rising to the height of 300 feet, and are regarded as a great curiosity.

Inhabitants. The inhabitants may be divided into three classes—*Whites*, *Negroes*, and *Indians*. The whites are descendants of Europeans, who have migrated to America since its discovery. The negroes are mostly held in slavery, and are descendants of Africans *forced* from their native country.

Indians. The Indians are the aborigines of the country, and generally savage. They are of a copper complexion, fierce aspect, tall, straight, athletic, and capable of enduring great fatigue. They are hospitable and generous, faithful in their friendship, but implacable in their resentments. Their common occupations are hunting, fishing, and war. At the time of the discovery of America, the natives, in some parts, particularly in Mexico and Peru, were considerably advanced in civilization. For the most part, they continue a distinct people, and retain their savage customs; but in some instances they have mingled with the white population. In North America, they possess almost all the country, except the southern and eastern parts; that is, the northern part of Mexico, most of the territory of the United States which lies west of the Mississippi, and nearly all the vast regions which lie north of the United States' territory, and west of the St. Lawrence.

Customs and Dispositions of the N. American Indians. The following account is mostly taken from the American Encyclopedia:—When the Europeans first arrived in America, they found the Indians quite naked, except those parts which even the most uncultivated people usually conceal. Since that time, however, they generally use a coarse blanket, which they lay of the neighboring planters.

Huts, &c. Their huts, or cabins, are made of stakes of wood driven into the ground, and covered with branches of trees or reeds. They lie on the floor, either on mats or the skins of wild beasts. Their dishes are of timber; but their spoons are made of the skulls of wild oxen, and their knives of flint. A kettle and a large plate constitute almost the whole utensils of the family. Cartwright assures us, that in Labrador, he met with a family of natives who were living in a cavern hollowed out of the snow. This extraordinary habitation was seven feet high, ten or twelve in diameter, and was shaped like an oven. A large piece of ice served as a door. A lamp lighted the inside, in which the inhabitants were lying on skins. At a short distance was a kitchen, likewise constructed of snow. They describe a circle on the frozen snow, and cutting it into segments with their knives, build it up with great reg-