

CHAPTER II.

NORTH AMERICA.

BOUNDARIES. — North America has the Atlantic on the east, the Arctic on the north, the Pacific on the west and southwest, and the Gulf of Mexico on the southeast. It is connected with South America by the Isthmus of Panama. The narrow part in the south is called Central America.

SITUATION and EXTENT. — North America lies between $7^{\circ} 15'$ and $71^{\circ} 23'$ N. Lat., and $55^{\circ} 30'$ and 168° W. Long. The extreme length, from the Isthmus of Panama to the most northern point, is about 5,600 miles and the breadth, across the middle of British America, 3,120 miles.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS. — The following table gives the political divisions, their area, population, and capital.

NAME.		AREA IN SQ. M.	POPULA- TION.	CAPITAL.
Russian America.....		394,000	66,000	New Archangel
British America.....		3,488,300	4,000,000	Ottawa
Danish America.....		380,000	9,400	Julianshaab
United States.....		3,260,000	31,250,000	Washington
Mexico.....		856,000	7,845,000	Mexico
Cent. Am.	Guatemala.....	43,380	970,400	New Guatemala
	San Salvador.....	9,594	394,000	Cojutepeque
	Honduras.....	39,600	350,000	Camayagua
	Nicaragua.....	49,500	260,000	Leon
	Costa Rica.....	13,590	215,000	San Jose
British Honduras.		19,200	11,000	Balize

SURFACE. — There are three principal mountain systems in North America : —