

## GIBRALTAR.

This ancient and celebrated fortress stands on a rocky promontory, which stretches out into the sea at the point on the south of the Spanish peninsula, forming with the opposite coast of Africa the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. The promontory consists of a lofty rock which runs from north to south for a distance of some three miles, with a breadth of about half a mile generally; while its greatest elevation on the south side is 1439 feet above the level of the sea. The ancient name of Gibraltar was Mons Calpe, and together with the opposite promontory on the African coast, it formed the far-famed "Pillars of Hercules," for ages the "Ultima Thule" of maritime enterprise among civilised nations.

Gibraltar became famous in the long and sanguinary contests between the Christians and the Moors in Spain. It remained in the hands of the latter nation almost without interruption for more than seven centuries, and was finally wrested from their hands in A. D. 1462, by John de Gusman, Duke de Medina, Sidonia. From that time Gibraltar remained in the possession of the Spanish Crown until the year 1704, when England being at war with Spain, a fleet of ships under Sir George Rook was sent into the Mediterranean. Sir George formed the daring plan, on the 17th of July, of seizing the fortress of Gibraltar, which he accom-