

NORTH AMERICA.

(Pop. 58,000,000).

Boundaries.—North America is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean, and the different straits which connect this ocean with the Atlantic; on the east, by the Atlantic; on the south, by the isthmus of Panama; on the west, by the Pacific Ocean, and north-west, by Behring's straits.

Extent.—Length 4,500 miles; average width 3,000.

Coasts, gulfs, and bays.—The coast is very irregular; several large openings appear, especially along the Atlantic. The principal gulfs and bays formed by the Arctic Ocean are:—the Polar Sea, discovered by Dr. Kane; the Gulf of Boothia;—by the Atlantic; Hudson's Bay, the gulf of St. Lawrence, Chaleur Bay, the Bay of Fundy, the gulf of Mexico and the Carribean Sea;—by the Pacific Ocean; Behring's Sea, and the gulf of California.

Straits.—The Straits are:—Behring's, between America and Asia; Lancaster and Barrow's straits, between Baffin's Bay and the Arctic Sea; the Straits of Belle Isle, between Newfoundland and Labrador; the Strait of Canso, between the Island of Cap Breton and Nova Scotia; and the Straits of Florida, between the United States and the Bahama Isles.

Islands.—The islands of North America may be divided into six principal groups: 1st. the islands of the Arctic Ocean, the most remarkable of which are Greenland, Cumberland, and Melville; 2d. the islands of the gulf of St. Lawrence; 3d. the Bermuda islands; 4th. the Lucayas or Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, the Carribean Islands, and the Lesser Antilles; these four groups form the important Archipelago of the Antilles; these are also called the Archipelago of the West Indies; 5th. the Archipelago of the Prince of Wales in the Pacific