

Seven Counties in the Basin of the Severn.

30. Somersetshire—Bath, famous for its medicinal and hot springs. Brilgewater, near which town, at Sedgemoor, the Duke of Monmouth was defeated in 1685. Near the mouth of the river Tone, in this county, is Athelney, where Alfred concealed himself from the Danes in 878.

31. Gloucester—Gloucester, fifteen miles from Gloucester is Berkeley Castle, where Edward II. was murdered in 1327.

"Hark! what shrieks from Berkeley towers do ring;
Shrieks of an agonizing king."

Bristol at one time ranked next to London. Sebastian Cabot, who discovered Newfoundland in 1492, (1497?) was a native of Bristol. Cheltenham is resorted to for its mineral waters.

32. Warwickshire—Warwick, containing the most perfect feudal castle in England. Coventry, noted for the manufacture of Ribbons. Birmingham, for metallic manufactures.

33. Worcestershire—Worcester famous for porcelain. Charles II. was defeated here by Cromwell, in 1651. Kidderminster, noted for carpets.

34. Shropshire—Shrewsbury where Hotspur was defeated and slain in 1403.

35. Herefordshire—Hereford, Leominster.

36. Monmouth—Monmouth, Chepstow.

Four Counties on the Irish Sea.

37. Cheshire—Chester which is enclosed by thick old walls.

38. Lancashire—Lancaster famous for its castle. Liverpool the greatest seaport in the empire next to London, celebrated for its extensive docks and great American trade. Manchester the second city in the kingdom for population, and the centre of the cotton trade.

39. Westmoreland—Appleby, Kendal.

40. Cumberland—Carlisle, with castle, and cathedral.

WALES CONTAINS TWELVE COUNTIES.

Its mountainous surface and wet climate is more fitted for pasturage than tillage. There are coal and iron mines in the south, and throughout the principality lead mines and slate quarries exist.

The Welsh are descended from the ancient Britons, who, aided by the mountain fastnesses, maintained their independence when the Saxons subdued England. Wales was conquered in 1282 by Edward I. The eldest son of the king or queen of England is called Prince of Wales. Their language is Celtic.

Six Counties of North Wales.

1. Flintshire—Flint, Mold, Holywell, in the mining districts.

2. Denbigh—Denbigh, Wrexham, with trade in flannels.

3. Carnarvon—Carnarvon, the first Prince of Wales, Edward II, was born in its castle.

4. Anglesea—Beaumaris, Holyhead.

5. Merioneth—Dolgelly, Bala.

6. Montgomery—Montgomery.

Six Counties in South Wales.

1. Cardigan—Cardigan.

2. Pembroke—Pembroke has a government dock.

3. Caermarthen—Caermarthen.

4. Glamorgan—Cardiff, Swansea, has an extensive trade in smelting copper. Merthyr Tydvil is now the largest town in Wales. It was a mere village in the last century. There are extensive iron works in its neighbourhood.

5. Brecknock—Brecknock.

6. Radnor—New Radnor.

The foreign possessions of Britain are equal in extent to one and a half times the size of Europe, or fifty times the size of Great Britain and Ireland.

The population subject to Great Britain equals 200 millions. (Ireland and Scotland should be gone through as England. Space does not permit this here.)

ASIA.

Area 17,000,000 squares miles. It is nearly five times the size of Europe, and contains one-third of the land on the earth's surface. It contains one-half of the human race.

REMARKS.—While Europe is compared to a body in which the limbs predominate, Africa to a body without members, Asia surpasses in the size of its body and extent of its members. Its coast line is 36,000 miles, but in proportion to its size it has but one mile to three that Europe has. Parts of Asia are 1,500 miles inland. The peninsulas south of Asia resemble those in the south of Europe; massive in the west, rich in the central peninsulas with an island at foot, and terminating in archipelagoes on the east.

NOTE.—The large print of Sullivan's geography may be used for seas, straits, boundaries, &c., &c.

REMARKS.—The Red Sea is saltier than the ocean, as it receives very little fresh water. It contains red coral and animalcules: hence its name. Its level is the same as the Mediterranean, but said to be higher when south-west winds blow. It is about 600 feet deep. It is divided into two gulfs on the north, Akaba and Suez. It was through the upper part of the latter that the Israelites passed of old.

Mountains.—A line drawn from the north of Persia to Behring's Strait will leave all the mountains of Asia south of it. Volcanoes are numerous on the east of Asia, chiefly on the islands. There are two volcanoes in the Thian Shan mountains, more distant from the sea than any others in the world.

Climate.—Most of Asia is in the north temperate zone. The portion of it in the Frigid Zone is intensely cold during the long winter of ten months: but the short summer is warm, owing to the length of time the sun remains above the horizon, without setting; the heat thereby accumulating. The climate of Southern Asia varies. In the West it is like Southern Europe; in Arabia and Persia it is very hot and almost without rain, except in the mountainous district, in Hindostan and further India, much moister. These last countries have two seasons, the wet and the dry; the wet corresponds to summer and the dry to winter. In the wet season, the sun is north of the equator, and a moist south-west wind blows from the ocean; in the dry season the sun is south of the equator, and a dry overland wind blows from the north-east.

Productions.—Most of Northern Asia is outside the limit of the growth of trees and is unfit for cultivation. Middle Asia is either desert or pasture land; the eastern slope however is fertile and cultivated. Southern Asia is varied. India is most fertile: rice is the chief grain; ginger, pepper, sugar-cane, cinnamon, cotton, cocoa-nut and other palms.

Minerals.—Coal is found in India and other parts. Gold in the Ural mountains, iron in most states, and tin south-east.

Animals.—In the north the bear, wolf, and fur-bearing animals. The centre is the native land of the horse probably: here also is the yak, a species of cow with long hair, camel, musk-deer. In the south-west the lion, tiger, hyæna, jackal, (which acts a scavenger in the streets of Calcutta at night), elephant, rhinoceros, crocodile, and the cobra snake; the peacock is a native of India.

Almost all the people of Asia are idolaters, except in the west, where Mahomedanism prevails.

AFRICA.

Three times the size of Europe. One-fifth of the land on the earth's surface.

Follow the large print in Sullivan's Geography.

Climate.—Three-fourths of Africa lie in the torrid zone, and as it has few elevations of considerable height, and water not abundant, it is hot and dry to a greater extent than the other continents. There are but two seasons, the dry and the rainy. Parching winds blow from the Sahara.

Productions.—In Northern Africa wheat, dourra, oranges, olives; the cotton plant in the north-east.