

**SOUTH AMERICA** is noted for the regularity of its coast, its lofty mountains, large rivers, and the profusion and variety of its tropical products. The river Amazon is said to be 4,000 miles long, and to drain an area of over 2,000,000 square miles. The greater part of this country was conquered and colonized by Spain and Portugal, about 200 years ago. Within the last 50 years the colonies belonging to these nations have gained their independence. The most important division of South America is the empire of Brazil, which has an area nearly equal to that of Europe.

**AUSTRALIA** is distinguished for its compactness, the regularity of its coast, its minerals, and the peculiarity of its plants and animals. Of 5,710 native plants now discovered in Australia, 5,440 belong to this continent alone; and of 58 species of quadrupeds, 46 are unknown elsewhere. When discovered, in 1606, it contained no fruits or domestic quadrupeds.

The most important **ISLANDS** of the globe are the British Isles, the West Indies, and the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

**POPULATION.** — The inhabitants of the earth number over 1,000,000,000. They are divided into five great races, distinguished from each other by their color, shape of the head, and general features. The following table gives the probable number belonging to each race.

Caucasian .....	400,000,000
Mongolian.....	470,000,000
Negro.....	80,000,000
Malay.....	40,000,000
American.....	10,000,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>1,000,000,000</b>