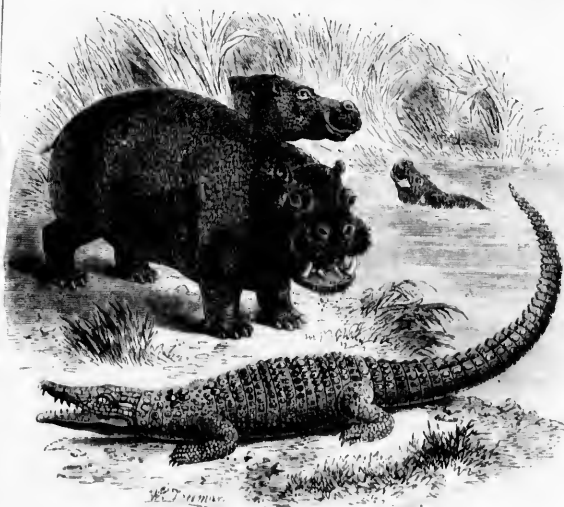


751. The large lakes and rivers abound in crocodiles, and it is very dangerous to bathe or swim in them, on account of these fierce reptiles.

Monkeys are numerous in the forests. The chimpanzee and gorilla in form somewhat resemble a man.

The ostrich, found in almost all parts of Africa, but particularly near the deserts, is the largest bird in the world. It cannot fly, but it runs swiftly, spreading its wings as it runs. Its speed is said to be twenty-five miles an hour, and the length of its step twelve feet. The feathers of this bird are brought to our country to adorn ladies' bonnets and hats.



750. HIPPOPOTAMUS AND CROCODILE.

752. In some parts of Central Africa there is a little fly called the *tsetse*, which, although it is no larger than a house-fly, can do much harm. The horse, ox, dog, and some other animals, are so poisoned by its sting, that they die in a few days.

**Inhabitants.**—753. We know so little of many parts of Africa, that it is difficult to find out how many people it contains. The northern countries are inhabited by white people, many of whom are Mohammedan Arabs, who came long ago from Arabia and conquered the country. In the interior of the Great Desert nearly all the people are Negroes. They are ignorant savages, and have

many barbarous customs. They often go to war with each other. Some of them eat the prisoners whom they have captured, and others sell their captives for slaves. Nearly all the coloured people in America are descended from those who were brought from Africa as slaves.

754. The Hottentots, who live towards the south, are a most degraded race. One tribe, called *Bushman*, are said to be only four feet high, and to be very ill-shaped. They have flat heads, crooked backs, short noses, and little twists of wool on their heads in place of hair. They have no houses or tents, but sleep under bushes, in the cleft of a rock, or in a hole which some wild animal has made in the earth. They eat roots, grasshoppers, worms, and whatever comes to hand. When they get a large animal, they eat so much that they can take no more food for several days.

The Kaffirs, in the south-east, are quite a fine race of people, living principally by their flocks.

755. In the south are many English people. Near the Orange and Vaal rivers are many Dutch, whose forefathers came from Holland.

**Divisions.**—756. Africa is often spoken of under five great divisions—*Northern Africa, Eastern Africa, Central Africa, Western Africa, and Southern Africa.*

757. The most important countries of **Northern Africa** are the *Barbary States and Egypt*; those of **Eastern Africa** are *Abyssinia and Zanguebar*; in **Central Africa** is a vast region known as the *Soudan*, comprising many small states; in **Western Africa** are *Ashantee, Dahomey, Sierra Leone, and Liberia*; and in **Southern Africa** are *Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, Orange River Republic, and Zululand.*

**Towns.**—758. Africa has not many large cities. Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is the largest. Alexandria, Tunis, and Cape Town are important ports. The Negro towns of Central Africa are generally built of mud. The houses are mere huts, of a circular form with a conical roof.