

tuated near the coast of Chilè, and is about 120 miles long, and 30 broad. It is the chief island of a considerable groupe, about forty in number, thirty of which are inhabited by Europeans, Creoles, mulattoes, and converted natives of the old Chilean race. The land is mountainous, and covered in many parts with almost impenetrable thickets. The rains are frequent and excessive, and are sometimes accompanied with tremendous hurricanes. Castro was formerly the chief town; but San-Carlos afterwards became the seat of government. Chiloe remained in the possession of the king of Spain for many years after the revolutionists had organised the Chilean state; but it was at length reduced by the vigor of their arms.

About 300 miles to the west from the coast of Chilè is an island called JUAN FERNANDES from the adventurer by whom it was first discovered. It is famous for having given rise to the celebrated romance of Robinson Crusoe. It seems that one Alexander Selkirk, a North-Briton, was left on this solitary spot by his captain, where he lived some years, until he was discovered by captain Woodes Rogers in 1709. When taken up, he had forgotten his native language, and could scarcely be understood, seeming to speak his words by halves. He was dressed in the skin of a goat, would drink nothing but water, and it was some time before he could relish the ship's victuals. During his abode in this island he had killed 500 goats, which he caught by running them down; and he marked as many more on the ears, which he dismissed. Some of these were caught thirty years after by lord Anson's people; their venerable aspect, and majestic beards, discovered strong symptoms of antiquity. Selkirk, on his return to England, was advised to publish an account of his life and adventures in his little kingdom. He is said to have put his papers into the hands of Daniel Defoe, to prepare them for publication; but that writer, by the help of these communications and a lively fancy, transformed Alexander Selkirk into Robinson Crusoe, and returned the papers to Selkirk; so that the latter derived no advantage from them. They were probably too indigested for publication, and Defoe might derive little from them but those hints which gave rise to his own celebrated performance.

This island was colonised by the Spaniards in 1767; and a small town was built and fortified near the north-west point. It is, for the most part, a rocky spot; but it contains some fertile valleys, abounding with trees.

The other islands which claim transient notice are the Galapago Isles, situated four hundred miles west of Peru, under the equator; and those in the Bay of Panama, called the King's or Pearl Islands. The former are so called from the turtles with which they abound: some of them are well-wooded, and others have a fertile soil; and the climate is more temperate than might be expected from their situation.

Having thus conducted our readers through the four quarters of the terraqueous globe, we might repose under the idea of a termination of our labors, if we did not consider that some parts of the world, not included in any one of those great divisions, call for our notice. The territories to which we allude are styled AUSTRALASIA and POLYNESIA.