

Minerals.—Coal, iron, copper, lead and tin. England owes to the abundance of these minerals, more especially coal and iron, the position she holds as the richest country in the world. Coal abounds in the northern counties, Staffordshire and Wales. Copper and tin are found chiefly in Cornwall and Devon.

Manufactures.—Cotton, woollen, silk, metal, and earthenware manufactures. 40,000 ships and 300,000 sailors are employed in the commerce of England, besides foreign vessels.

Government.—A limited monarchy consisting of king or queen, lords and commons. The House of Commons consists of 658 members for the United Kingdom elected by the people. The House of Commons may be said to govern the kingdom—it alone has control of the finances.

People.—The people of England are chiefly descendants of Saxons, mixed with Danes and Normans. The Welsh are descended from the original inhabitants.

Religion.—Protestant Episcopacy is the established religion, but all denominations are tolerated. The Sovereign and Lord Chancellor must be protestant; other public offices are open to all. (?)

ENGLAND HAS 40 COUNTIES. (1)

Northern Counties.

1. Northumberland—In this county are the remains of an ancient Roman wall, partly built by Agricola A. D. 80. Chief towns—Newcastle, a seaport on the Tyne; extensive coal mines near. There is a double bridge over the Tyne, the upper arches of which are used for railway purposes. Berwick—Twelve miles from Berwick is Flodden Field, where the Scots, under James IV., were defeated in 1513.

2. Durham—Durham the chief town, has a fine cathedral and university. The Saxon monk, "The venerable Bede," was buried in this cathedral.

3. York—York is divided into three districts called Ridings. Chief towns—York, an ancient city, once the residence of the Roman Emperors. The cathedral is the finest specimen of Gothic architecture in the kingdom. West of York is Marston Moor where, in 1644, Charles I. was defeated by Cromwell. Sheffield, famous for cutlery and metallic manufactures. Leeds, the seat of the woollen manufactures. Hull, which ranks as a seaport next to London and Liverpool. Its trade is chiefly with the North Sea and Baltic ports. Scarborough, south-west of which is Kirkdale Cave, where bones of hyænas, tigers, rhinoceroses, &c., are found.

4. Derby—Derby, Chesterfield, Matlock, Buxton. Prince Charles advanced to Derby in 1745, before he was defeated at Culloden.

5. Stafford—Stafford, Lichfield, Burton-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyne. Lichfield was the birth place of Dr. Johnson, born in 1709. Burton has large breweries—Part of Staffordshire is called "The Potteries."

6. Leicester—Leicester, Loughborough.

7. Nottingham—Nottingham, Newark. (2)

Six Counties in the Basin of the Wash.

8. Lincoln—Lincoln, Boston, Grantham. Lincoln was a Roman town at first, afterwards capital of Mercia, one of the Saxon Heptarchy. It is noted for a fine cathedral. Near Grantham, Isaac Newton was born.

9. Rutland—Oakham.

10. Northampton—Northampton, Peterborough. Twelve miles from Northampton, at Naseby, Cromwell defeated the army of Charles I. in 1645. Near Northampton was Fotheringay Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, and beheaded in 1587.

11. Bedford—Bedford, Dunstable.

12. Huntingdon—Huntingdon, the birth place of Oliver Cromwell.

13. Cambridge—Cambridge, Ely. Cambridge has a great university with thirteen colleges and four halls, famous for the study of mathematics. Ely has a cathedral.

Three Counties in the East Plain.

14. Norfolk—Norwich, Yarmouth. Norwich has manufactures of woollens and mixed stuffs, introduced by the Flemings in the reign of Henry I and Elizabeth. Yarmouth is the chief seat of the herring fishery.

15. Suffolk—Ipswich, Lowestoft, the most westerly town of England. Bury St. Edmunds has the remains of a large abbey.

16. Essex—Chelmsford, Colchester. (3)

Seven Counties in the Basin of the Thames.

17. Middlesex—London, is ten miles long and seven broad, and includes besides the city, Westminster on the west, Marylebone, Finsbury, Tower-Hamlets on the north, Southwark and Lambeth on the south. In its wealth, trade, and commerce, it surpasses every city in the world. Among its public buildings are the Tower, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, New Houses of Parliament, Royal Exchange. To the south-east a few miles is Sydenham, with its Crystal Palace. Along the Thames westwards, Chelsea with its hospital; Hampton Court, the residence, at one time, of Cardinal Wolsey; Chertsey, where Cesar crossed; and Runnymede, where Magna Charta was signed.

18. Hertford—Hertford, St. Albans, where two battles were fought during the "Wars of the Roses."

19. Buckingham—Buckingham, Eaton, famous for its great public school, founded by Henry VI.

20. Oxford—Oxford, remarkable for its university founded by Alfred the Great. It is the most richly endowed in the world. It has nineteen colleges and five halls: it possesses, too, the large Bodleian Library, and a fine museum.

21. Berkshire—Reading, Windsor, with its noble castle, the favourite residence of the English sovereigns.

22. Surrey—Guildford, Epsom, noted for its races; Croydon, which gave its name to a new vehicle.

23. Kent—Canterbury, the seat of the Primacy of England; Thomas-a-Becket was murdered here in 1170. Dover and Folkstone the chief route to France—distance from Dover to Calais 21 miles.

Six Counties on the English Channel.

24. Sussex—Lewes, Hastings, near which the Saxons, under Harold, were defeated by William I.; Brighton, a favourite watering place.

25. Hampshire—Winchester, once the capital of England, under the Saxon rule. King Alfred was buried here. Southampton the principal mail steam-packet station of England. The great military hospital, Netley, is near Southampton. Portsmouth, the principal naval station of Britain. In Hampshire is Aldershot, the military camp.

26. Wiltshire—Salisbury, near which is Stonehenge, the great temple of the Druids.

27. Dorsetshire—Dorchester, Poole, Weymouth.

28. Devon—Exeter on the Exe, an ancient city, with a magnificent cathedral. Plymouth, including Devonport, is the second naval station. The famous breakwater is at the mouth of the sound, and is near a mile long. The Eddystone lighthouse is to the south.

29. Cornwall—Bodmin, Truro, Falmouth. (4)

(1) Alfred is said to have divided England into shires, ruled by an Earl. The Normans called Earl *Comte*, from which come count and county.

(2) The last five counties are in the Humber basin.

(3) The three last counties are chiefly agricultural.

(4) These six counties are chiefly agricultural. Cornwall gives the title Duke of Cornwall to the eldest son of the King of England. The first Duke of Cornwall was the Black Prince, son of Edward III.