

BIGGEST THINGS ON EARTH.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD—MARVELS OF NATURE—STUPENDOUS WORKS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY MAN.

THE highest range of mountains is the Himalays, the mean elevation being estimated at from 16,000 to 18,000 feet.

THE loftiest mountain is Mount Everest, or Guarisanter, of the Himalaya range, having an elevation of 29,002 feet above the sea level.

THE largest city in the world is London. Its population numbers 3,020,871 souls. New York, with a population of about 1,250,000, comes fifth in the list of great cities.

THE largest theatre is the New Opera House in Paris. It covers nearly three acres of ground. Its cubic mass is 4,287,000. It cost about 100,000,000 francs.

THE largest suspension bridge will be the one now building between New York and Brooklyn. The length of the main span is 1,595 feet six inches; the entire length of the bridge 5,989 feet.

THE loftiest active volcano is Popocatepetl—"smoking mountain" thirty-five miles south-west of Puebla, Mexico. It is 17,784 feet above the sea level, and has a crater three miles in circumference and 1,000 feet deep.

THE largest island in the world, which is also regarded as a continent, is Australia. It is 2,500 miles in length from east to west, and measures 1,950 miles from north to south. Its area is 2,984,287 square miles.

THE longest span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph in India over the river Kistnah, between Bezorah and Sectanagram. It is more than 6,000 feet long, and is stretched between two hills, each of which is 1,200 feet high.

THE largest ship in the world is the "Great Eastern." She is 690 feet long, 83 feet broad, and 60 feet deep, being 22,927 tons builders, 18,915 gross and 13,944 net register. She was built at Millwall, on the Thames, and was launched January 31, 1857.

THE biggest trees in the world are the mammoth trees of California. One of a grove in Tulare county, according to measurement made by members of the State Geological Survey, was shown to be 276 feet high, 106 feet in circum-

ference at base, and 76 feet at a point 12 feet above the ground. Some of the trees are 376 feet high and 84 feet in diameter. Some of the largest that have been felled indicate an age of from 2,000 to 2,500 years.

THE largest university is Oxford in England, in the city of the same name, fifty-five miles from London. It consists of twenty-one colleges and five halls. Oxford was a seat of learning as early as the time of Edward the Confessor. University College claims to have been founded by Alfred.

THE largest body of fresh water on the globe is Lake Superior, 400 miles long, 160 miles wide at its greatest breadth, and having an area of 82,000 square miles. Its mean depth is said to be about 900 and its greatest depth about 200 fathoms. Its surface is about 685 feet above the level of the sea.

THE most extensive park is Deer Park in the environs of Copenhagen, in Denmark. The inclosure contains about 4,200 acres, and is divided by a small river. The largest pleasure ground in America, and one of the largest in the world, is Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, which contains 2,740 acres.

THE highest monolith is the obelisk at Karnak, in Egypt. Karnak is on the east bank of the Nile, near Luxor, and occupies a part of the site of ancient Thebes. The obelisk is ascribed to Hatshepsut, sister of Pharaoh Thothmes III, who reigned about 1,600 B. C. Its whole length is 122 feet, and its weight 400 tons. Its height without pedestal is 108 feet 10 inches.

THE biggest cavern is the Mammoth Cave, in Edmonson County, Ky. It is near Green River, six miles from Cape City, and about twenty-eight miles from Bowling Green. The cave consists of a succession of irregular chambers, some of which are large, situated on different levels. Some of these are traversed by navigable branches of the subterranean Echo River. Blind fish are found in its waters.

THE longest tunnel in the world is that of St. Gothard, on the line of railroad between Lucerne and Milan. The summit of the tunnel is 980 feet below the surface at Andermatt, and 6,600 feet beneath the peak of Kastelhorn, of the St. Gothard group. The tunnel is 26½ feet wide and 19 feet 10 inches from the floor to the crown of

the arched roof. It is 9½ miles long, 1½ miles longer than the Mount Conis tunnel.

THE largest inland sea is the Caspian, lying between Europe and Asia. Its greatest length is 760 miles, its greatest breadth 270 miles, and its area 180,000 square miles. Great Salt Lake, in Utah, which may properly be termed an inland sea, is about 90 miles long and has a varying breadth of from 20 to 35 miles. Its surface is 4,200 feet above the level of the sea, whereas the surface of the Caspian is 84 feet below the ocean level.

THE largest empire in the world is that of Great Britain, comprising 8,557,658 square miles, more than a sixth part of the land of the globe, and embracing under its rule nearly a sixth part of the population of the world. In territorial extent the United States ranks third, containing 3,580,242 square miles, including Alaska; in population it ranks fourth, with its 50,000,000 of people. Russia ranks second, having 8,352,940 square miles.

THE largest bell in the world is the great bell of Moscow at the foot of the Kremlin. Its circumference at the bottom is nearly 68 feet, and its height more than 21 feet. In its stoutest part it is 23 inches thick, and its weight has been computed to be 448,772 pounds. It has never been rung, and was probably cast on the spot where it now stands. A piece of the bell is broken off. The fracture is supposed to have been occasioned by water having been thrown upon it when heated by the building erected over it being on fire.

THE largest desert is that of Sahara, a vast region of northern Africa, extending from the Atlantic Ocean on the west to the valley of the Nile on the east. The length from east to west is 3,000 miles, its average breadth about 900 miles, its area 2,000,000 square miles. The town of Timbucto, about eight miles from the Niger River, is surrounded by desert, but at a distance of a few days' journey to the northeast and north are the oases of Mabrook and Arawan. Rain falls in torrents in the Sahara at intervals of five, ten and twenty years. In summer the heat during the day is excessive, but the nights are often cold. In winter the temperature is sometimes below freezing point.