

3. As you are about to start on a voyage to Africa, I shall tell you a few things which you should know about that continent.¹

4. It is, chiefly, a vast table-land. Its mountains are near the coast, along which are low, narrow plains, extending to the foot of the mountains.

5. The highest mountains are in the east; Mount Kenia being the highest peak.

6. In some parts of Africa, the soil is dry and barren; while in others, it is rich and productive.

7. In the extreme north and south, the climate is mild, and the soil fertile. In the middle, or on each side of the Equator, where it rains nearly every day for six months in the year, there are dense forests and extensive prairies, marshes, and lakes.²

8. Africa has very few good bays, harbors, or navigable rivers, through which people of other continents might enter easily. Besides, the climate along the coasts of the Atlantic and Indian oceans is very unhealthy. These are some of the reasons why so much of Africa is unknown, and so many of its inhabitants are uncivilized.³

9. On the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, are four countries,—Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, and Tripoli (*trip'ole*), which are called Bar'bary. Some of their people live in cities which are surrounded by walls and towers; while others live only in tents and tent-villages. All have a brown complexion, and nearly all have prominent noses and black, straight hair. They are Ber'bers and Ar'abs.

10. The climate of all Northern Africa is so mild in winter, that the gardens are full of beautiful flowers, and the orange-trees are covered with fruit and blossoms all the year. Olive and date-palm trees also flourish there.

11. You may see, at one of the sea-ports, a caravan just arrived after a long journey across the Great Desert, from the Soudan, with camels laden with ivory, coffee, gum-arabic, ostrich-feathers, palm-oil, ginger, pepper, etc.

12. Egypt, which is also on the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, is the most important and interesting country in Africa.

¹ Learn or read about the ruined temples and images, and the immense tombs which, for thousands of years, contained the mummies of Egyptian kings, queens, and princes; also, about Moses and Joseph, mentioned in the Scriptures.

² As you leave the rainless districts of Egypt and Nubia, you will see more and more rain until you reach the region of the Equator, where the rain falls in torrents for months at a time, filling many large lakes and streams, which send or carry their water into the Nile. Central Africa was explored by the famous Livingstone, and afterward, by Stanley.

³ In various parts of Africa, the inhabitants raise cattle and sheep, and cultivate the soil. Many tribes are civilized, but others, especially those in the central and southern parts

of the continent, are constantly at war with one another; holding the prisoners as slaves, or selling them to Arab slave-dealers. Arabs who live in the desert are called Bedouins.

The hottest part of the world is along the coast of the Red Sea.

The countries of Africa are governed by different nations of Europe. Egypt, by Turkey and England; Algeria and Tunis, by France; Cape Colony and other countries near it, by England. Germany and Portugal also have possessions in Africa.

On the Island of St. Helena, a celebrated emperor died in exile. Write a letter, and tell what you know about this emperor,—about the pyramids,—the sphinx.