

PINNOCK'S CATECHISMS.

A
CATECHISM
OF
BRITISH GEOGRAPHY.

IN TWO PARTS.

PART II.

1359

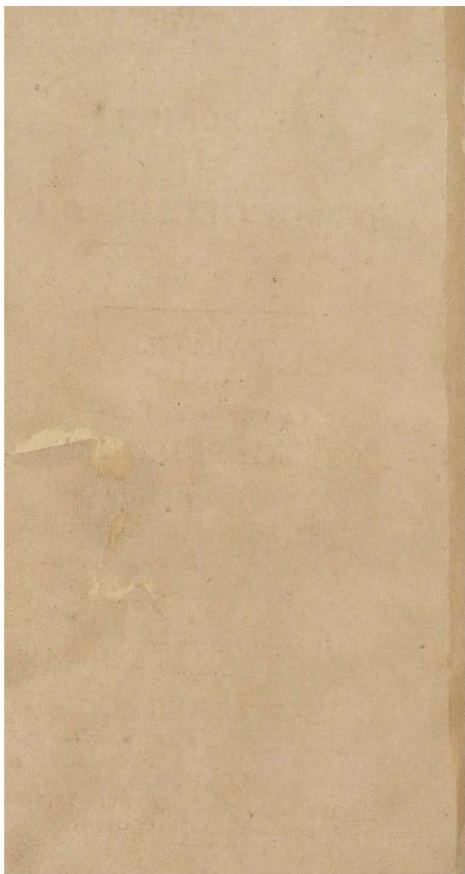
CONTAINING
A DESCRIPTION OF
SCOTLAND, IRELAND,

AND
THE FOREIGN POSSESSIONS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD.

THIRD EDITION.

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CATECHISM
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BRITISH GEOGRAPHY.

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CHAPTER I.

Situation, Size, Climate, Productions, &c. of Scotland.

Question. WHAT part of the British dominions does Scotland form?

Answer. Scotland is the northern division of the island of Great Britain; bounded on the south by England and the Irish sea; on the east by the German sea; and on the north and west by the Atlantic ocean.

Q. What is its geographical situation, and extent?

A. It lies between the 54th and 59th degrees of north latitude, and the 1st and 6th of west longitude. Its length is 260 miles, and its greatest breadth 160.

Q. What was the ancient name of Scotland?

A. It was called by the Romans *Caledonia*; it subsequently received the name of *Provincia Pictorum*; and, when the *Picti* were subdued, it took the name of *Scotland*, from its conquerors, the *Scoti*.

Q. How is Scotland divided?

A. Scotland is divided into two districts, the *Highlands*, and the *Lowlands*; the term *Highlands* is applied to the mountainous part to the north and north-west; the *Lowlands* denote the more level district situated on the eastern and south-eastern sides.

Q. What may be termed the more natural divisions of Scotland?

A. Nature seems to have pointed out three grand divisions in Scotland, the Northern, the Middle, and the Southern.

Q. Describe the Northern division.

A. The Northern division is formed by a chain of lakes, which cross the country, from the frith of Murray to the island of Mull. It consists chiefly of an assemblage of high and dreary mountains, with some fertile valleys on the northern and eastern coasts.

Q. How far to the south does the Middle division extend?

A. The Middle division is bounded on the south by the friths of Forth and Clyde, and the great canal which unites these two inlets of the sea. Several ranges of mountains run through this division, the arable land bearing an inconsiderable proportion to that which is barren and uncultivated.

Q. What constitutes the Southern division?

A. All that part of Scotland lying southward of the friths of Forth and Clyde before mentioned. Its appearance is very similar to England, being by far the most fertile portion of North Britain.

Q. What are the civil divisions of Scotland?

A. Scotland is divided into thirty-three counties, which will be separately described hereafter.

Q. Is the country populous?

A. Compared with South Britain, it certainly is not; the amount of the population of Scotland, at the present time, is supposed to be about two millions.

Q. Describe the general appearance of the country.

A. The general appearance of the country is mountainous, presenting to the eye of the traveller a variety of bold and picturesque scenery, agreeably diversified by a charming intermixture of natural objects.

Q. Is the climate salubrious?

A. The air of Scotland is certainly more mild than could be expected in so northerly a climate, though in some parts it is very cold; but it is, in general, damp and variable.

Q. How do you account for its being more mild than other countries in the same latitude?

A. It partly arises from the variety of its hills, valleys, rivers, and lakes, but chiefly from its vicinity to the sea, the breezes from which not only soften the natural keenness of the air, but, by keeping it in perpetual agitation, render it pure and healthful, and prevent those epidemic distempers that prevail in many other countries.

Q. Is the soil fertile?

A. Generally speaking, the soil is not so fertile as in England, particularly in the northern and western parts of Scotland; but in the lowland districts there are many plains and valleys of the most luxuriant fertility.

Q. What is the state of agriculture in Scotland?

A. Agriculture is as well understood, both in theory and practice, in many parts of Scotland, as in any country in the world. It must, however, be observed, that though the genius and industry of the Scotch husbandmen cannot be surpassed, yet a great portion of the country presents a barren appearance.

Q. To what is it owing?

A. In many instances it is owing to the sterility of the soil; but oftener to a mistaken policy of the landlords, who refuse to grant such leases as would encourage the tenants to improve their farms.

Q. What are the chief productions of Scotland?

A. The soil in general produces wheat, rye, barley, oats, hemp, and flax; affording also considerable pasture for cattle. The southern parts fall very little short of England in producing the finest fruits, and the uncultivated parts of the Highlands abound in all kinds of pleasant tasted berries.

CHAP. II.

Mountains, Rivers, Lakes, Forests, Minerals, &c.

Q. WHICH are the principal ranges of mountains?

A. The principal mountains in Scotland are, the Grampian hills, which run from east to west, from near Aberdeen to Cowal, in Argyleshire; another chain of mountains,

called the Pentland hills, runs through Lothian, and joins those of Tweeddale; the Lammermuir hills, in Berwickshire; and the Cheviot hills, on the borders of England.

Q. Tell me the heights of the most remarkable mountains.

A. The highest is a mountain in Inverness-shire, called Ben-Nevis, which is 4,370 feet above the level of the sea. There are also, Cairngorum, which is 4,060; Ben-Lawers, in Perthshire, 4,015; Ben-Lomond, in Dumbartonshire, 3,262 feet; and many others of a height nearly as stupendous.

Q. Name the principal rivers of Scotland.

A. The principal rivers are the Tay, the Forth, the Spey, the Tweed, and the Clyde.

Q. Describe the Tay.

A. The Tay is the largest of the Scotch rivers. It has its source in Breadalbane, and, running south-east, it passes the town of Perth, and falls into the sea at Dundee. The salmon fishery on this river is very extensive.

Q. What is the course of the Forth?

A. The Forth rises on the north side of Ben-Lomond mountain, in Stirlingshire, and, running from west to east nearly the whole breadth of the kingdom, forms that frith, or arm of the German ocean, to which it gives its name. Some parts of this river are beautifully winding, and afford many delightful scenes.

Q. Describe the Spey.

A. The Spey is a large and very rapid river, which rises at Badenoch, in Inverness-shire, and, pursuing a north-easterly course, falls into the sea at Elgin.

Q. Where does the Tweed rise?

A. The river Tweed has its source at Tweedsmuir, near where the counties of Peebles, Dumfries, and Lanark join. It receives, in its course, many smaller streams, and at length empties itself into the German ocean at Berwick-upon-Tweed. No river in the world has furnished more themes for pastoral poetry than the Tweed, nor can any one more deserve the honour.

Q. Describe the river Clyde.

A. The Clyde rises in the parish of Crawford, on one of those high hills which separate Lanarkshire from the district of Annandale. When it reaches Port Glasgow,

the stream is about two miles broad; it then swells into the frith which bears its name, and disembogues into the ocean below Greenock.

Q. For what is the Clyde particularly famous?

A. For its romantic falls in the vicinity of Lanark, one of which is 84 feet deep; and for its salmon fishery. It would be impossible to convey to the mind of a stranger an accurate idea of the grandeur of the cataracts, called the Falls of the Clyde: the tremendous rocks around; the furious stream foaming over the rock; the immense chasm below, heightened by the hollow murmur of the water, and the screams of wild birds, form a spectacle both tremendous and pleasing.

Q. Does Scotland boast of many navigable canals?

A. Not many. The canal of greatest importance is that which connects the eastern and western seas, by a junction of the rivers Forth and Clyde. It crosses many rivulets, and two considerable rivers, the Kelvin and Luggie, over which are large aqueduct bridges; that over the Kelvin is 420 feet long, and 65 feet high.

Q. Name the other canals.

A. The Crinan, in Argyleshire; the Caledonian, which was cut for the purpose of joining the chain of lakes that stretch across the country from Inverness to Fort William; and the Ardrossan, between Glasgow and Ardrossan, in Ayrshire.

Q. Are not the lakes in Scotland both numerous and extensive?

A. Yes; the lakes of Scotland (there called *lochs*) are very numerous, and many of them of great extent. Loch Lomond, in Dumbartonshire; Loch Tay, in Perthshire; Loch Ness, in Inverness-shire; and Loch Awe, in Argyleshire, are the most important.

Q. What is the nature of these lakes?

A. They consist of large pieces of water, generally connected with or giving rise to some river, and containing plenty of fresh-water fish. The picturesque scenery on the margin of many of the lakes will vie with any in Europe.

Q. What remarkable difference is there in some of the lakes?

A. Near Loch Ness is a hill almost perpendicular, on the top of which is a lake of cold fresh water, too deep ever yet to be fathomed, and which never freezes; while the Lake Lochanwyn, only 17 miles distant, is covered with ice all the year round.

Q. Is the term *loch* always confined to these inland waters?

A. Not always; for example, an arm of the sea, sixty miles long, and four broad, is called Loch Fyn, and many others are similarly named.

Q. Has not Scotland many of these inlets, or arms of the sea?

A. Yes; the coasts of Scotland are in many parts indented with large, bold, navigable bays, or arms of the sea, as the Bay of Glenluce, and Wigtown Bay; sometimes, as before observed, they are called friths, as the Frith of Forth, &c.

Q. Is Scotland a woody country?

A. Scotland formerly abounded with forests, few of which now remain, though some large woods are still in existence. The Scotch oak, grown in the Highlands, is excellent; and the fir grows in great perfection in every part of the country.

Q. What are the mineral productions of Scotland?

A. The mineral productions of Scotland are very important. It has mines* of lead, iron, copper, and coal; and its quarries of stone for building are superior to any in the United Kingdom.

Q. What other minerals are found in Scotland?

A. The stone called lapis lazuli† has been found in Lanarkshire; alum mines in Bamfshire; curious variegated pebbles, crystals, and other transparent stones, are

* Formerly Scotland could boast of its gold mines, though none are at present worked. James V. contracted with certain Germans for working the mines of Crawford Moor; and it is certain, that when that monarch married the daughter of the King of France, a number of covered dishes, filled with coins of Scotch gold, were presented to the guests by way of dessert. It likewise appears, by the public records, that those beautiful coins, struck by James V., called bonnet-pieces, were made of gold dug from the mines of Scotland.

† For a description of this and other minerals, see Pinnock's Catechism of MINERALOGY.

met with in many places, and are capable of receiving the finest polish for seals, for which purpose they are commonly used; besides several other useful substances, as talc, potters' clay, fullers' earth, &c.

Q. What birds are peculiar to this part of Britain?

A. The most remarkable of the native birds of Scotland are the black cock and the grouse. Eagles are often seen on the cliffs near the sea, falcons are met with in the forests, and numerous sea-fowl are found on the coasts and islands.

Q. Is there a plentiful supply of fish?

A. Yes; the shores of Scotland are abundantly supplied with the various kinds of salt-water fish, and some of the large rivers furnish an inexhaustible supply of salmon; while the lakes and streams abound in trout, perch, and other fresh-water fish.

CHAP. III.

Antiquities and Natural Curiosities, Religion, Literature, Commerce, and Manufactures, of Scotland.

Q. DOES Scotland furnish many subjects for the antiquary?

A. Yes; many parts of Scotland afford opportunities for antiquarian research; relics of the Romans, Picts, Danes, and even the Druids, being still in existence.

Q. Give a short account of the most remarkable of the Roman antiquities in Scotland.

A. The principal is that of the Roman wall, which was first planned by Agricola, and completed by Antonius Pius; it extended across the country from the Frith of Forth to the Frith of Clyde, and is still discernible, as are the sites of several Roman camps in its neighbourhood. It is called by the country people *Graham's Dyke*, from a tradition that a Scottish warrior of that name first crossed that celebrated boundary.

Q. What other vestige of Agricola's invasion is in existence?

A. At the foot of the Grampian hills, at Ardoch, in Perthshire, are the remains of a camp occupied by Agri-

cola, before he fought the bloody battle, and obtained his victory over the Caledonians, under the command of their valiant king Galgacus. Some writers suppose this remain of antiquity to have been a regular castellum, or Roman fort, from the numerous Roman coins and inscriptions found near it.

Q. Are there any other Roman antiquities deserving of notice?

A. There are numerous others, but not sufficiently important to demand a place in this brief description. The same observation will apply to those of Pictish, Scottish, Danish, or Druidical origin.

Q. What are the principal natural curiosities of Scotland?

A. To enumerate the natural beauties and curiosities of Scotland which are worthy the attention of a traveller, would far exceed the limits of this work; but, besides the beautiful Falls of the Clyde before noticed, the amazing cataract called the Fall of Fyres, on the east side of Loch Ness, 200 feet in height; the *basaltic* columns and cavern in the island of Staffa*, and the Bullers of Buchan, which are stupendous rocks on the coast of Aberdeenshire, are too interesting to be wholly omitted.

Q. Describe the basaltic pillars and cavern in the island of Staffa.

A. More than one half of the circumference of this island is composed of handsome colonnades of regular pillars, which are laid bare by the sea, and which extend in a sloping direction as far under the water as the eye can reach, increasing in size as they are nearer the entrance of the principal cave, called the Cave of Fingal. This cave, for its size, situation, form, and elegance, is justly considered one of the most stupendous pieces of natural architecture in the world.

Q. What is the size of this remarkable cavern?

A. Fingal's Cave is 53 feet wide at the entrance, 117 feet high, and 250 feet long. The bottom of the cave is

Basaltic, *a.* (from *basaltis*;) a kind of marble never found in layers, but standing upright.

* One of the Hebrides, or Western Isles.

filled with the sea, which reaches to its extremity, where there is another cave, on a smaller scale, called ^a "The Melodious Cave," from the agreeable sound made by the water in rushing into it. On the north side of the island is another cavern, in the midst of a magnificent colonnade, called "The Corvorant's Cave."

Q. What account have we of the religion of Scotland in the early ages of Christianity?

A. Our ancient historians* say, that Christianity was first taught in Scotland by some of the disciples of St. John the apostle, who fled thither to avoid the persecution of the Roman emperor Domitian, though it was not publicly professed till the reign of Donald the First, in the third century, when that prince, and several of his nobles, were baptized. It afterwards fell under the influence of the pope, and admitted the forms and ceremonies of the church of Rome.

Q. What is the present established religion of Scotland?

A. From the time of the revolution in 1688, the established religion of Scotland has been presbyterianism†, and which, indeed, is the almost universal religion of the Scots.

Q. What form of government had the Scotch before the union of their country with England?

A. Scotland was governed by a king before the Romans invaded Britain, and continued an independent kingdom till the death of queen Elizabeth, when James VI. of Scotland, being the nearest heir to the throne of England, became the monarch of both kingdoms, which, however, were governed by separate parliaments.

Q. What was the object of the union of England and Scotland in the reign of Queen Anne?

A. The object of the union was, that both countries should be represented by one parliament, and, with some few exceptions, by the same laws.

Q. How is Scotland now represented in the British parliament?

A. Thirty members represent the Scotch counties, and

* The Venerable Bede asserts this.

† See Catechism of RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

fifteen are sent by the cities and boroughs, making forty-five members of the House of Commons; while sixteen peers represent the nobility of Scotland in the House of Lords.

Q. What is the national language of Scotland?

A. The language of the Highlands is the Erse, or Celtic; that of the Lowlands is a mixture of the Anglo-Saxon with the ancient Scandinavian. But the language written, and now generally spoken, is the English, which differs no more in pronunciation from the language spoken in London, than the dialects of the northern and western English counties.

Q. What may be observed of the literature of Scotland?

A. It may be truly said, that the Scotch are inferior to no nation in the world for the progress they have made in the arts, sciences, and general literature; and, for its population, it has lately produced more learned men than any other country in Europe.

Q. To what must this be attributed?

A. To the great attention that is paid in Scotland to the education of youth.

Q. What universities are there?

A. Scotland has four universities; Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and St. Andrew's. Independent of these, every parish has its school, the master of which receives a regular salary; so that the means are afforded of instructing youth at a small expense to their parents.

Q. What is the state of commerce and manufactures in this country?

A. Since the union of Scotland with England, the commerce and manufactures of the former have been in an improving state, and they now bear a fair proportion to the more southern parts of Britain. In fact, the enterprising spirit of the inhabitants will never permit them to remain inactive where any advantage is to be gained.

Q. Of what do its manufactures principally consist?

A. The manufactures of Scotland consist principally of linens, muslins, cottons, woollen stuffs, iron, glass, leather &c.

Q. Which are the chief cities and towns of Scotland?

A. Edinburgh, the capital; Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Paisley, Leith, Greenock, Dumfries, &c.

CHAP. IV.

Manners, Customs, Dress, &c. of the Inhabitants.

Q. Is there any striking dissimilarity between the manners and customs of the Scotch, and their neighbours, the English?

A. Among the higher classes there is scarcely any difference at present, though there formerly was; but among the middle and lower classes, they have many customs peculiar to themselves.

Q. What are they?

A. They consist of their national dances and festive meetings at weddings; their solemn burials; their love of the Highland dress; and their attachment to the memory and language of their ancestors.

Q. What is the general character of the Scotch?

A. The Scotch have a great command over their passions, and they conform their manners according to their stations; they live frugally, behave submissively to their superiors, and are generally faithful to one another.

Q. What is the Highland dress composed of?

A. The Highland dress is composed of woollen stuff, striped, called, the *tartan plaid*, of which nearly all their garments are made. Sometimes the plaid is worn thrown over the shoulder, in the form of the Roman *toga*, as represented on the ancient statues; and a kind of petticoat, made of the same variegated stuff, is buckled round the waist, called a *kilt*, or *phelibeg*.

Q. What other parts of their dress are composed of this material?

A. Their stockings are likewise of tartan, tied below the knee with tartan garters, formed into tassels; on their heads they wear a flat woollen bonnet; from the belt of the *phelibeg* hang their arms, and a large purse, made either of leather or the undressed skin of an animal, is suspended in front of it.

Q. Is the dress of the Highland women as singular as that of the men?

A. The dress of a Highland woman consists of a petticoat and jerkin, with straight sleeves, over which they wear a plaid, fastened under their chins; but of late they are conforming to the dress of the Lowlanders, which is very similar to that of the other parts of Britain.

CHAP. V.

THE NORTHERN DIVISION OF SCOTLAND,

CONSISTING OF SIX COUNTIES.

Q. WHICH are the counties composing the northern civil division of Scotland?

A. Orkney and Shetland, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Cromarty, and Inverness.

Q. What is meant by *Orkney and Shetland*?

A. By Orkney and Shetland is meant that vast cluster of islands which lie to the north of the continent of Scotland; but, as we shall devote a separate chapter to the consideration of the Scottish isles generally, they will require no farther notice here, than that they together form the most northern county (or, as it is termed, stewartry), and send one member to the British parliament.

Q. Describe the county of *Caithness*.

A. Caithness, sometimes called the shire of Wick, is the most northerly county of Scotland. It extends 35 miles from north to south, and 22 from east to west. Its coast sare very rocky, and it is remarkable for its numerous bays and promontories. The population is estimated at 23,729.

Q. What are its productions?

A. Caithness abounds in cattle, sheep, goats, roe-bucks, red deer, and produces copper and iron; but the inhabitants, who are a hardy and industrious race, principally live by fishing and grazing.

Q. What are the principal places in the county?

A. Wick, a royal burgh, and the town of Thurso. Caithness sends a member to parliament, alternately with the county of Bute.

Q. What have you to observe of the county of *Sutherland*?

A. The county of Sutherland is bounded on the north by Caithness, on the south by Ross-shire, and on the other sides by the ocean. It is mountainous and barren, but well supplied with fish and wild fowl, in consequence of its numerous lakes and small islands. The mountains afford pasture to large flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle, which constitute the chief branch of its commerce. Its population is about 24,000.

Q. Does Sutherland contain any towns of importance?

A. It has only one, Dornoch, which is a royal burgh. This county sends one member to parliament.

Q. Are there any mineral productions?

A. Yes; free-stone, lime-stone, slate, and iron-stone, are abundant; and lately coal has been also found. Rock crystals, Scotch pebbles, and beautiful garnets, are also met with on the coasts.

Q. For what is the county of Ross remarkable?

A. The county of Ross is one of the most extensive in Scotland, being 80 miles long, and nearly as broad, and reaching from sea to sea. The general aspect of Ross-shire is rugged and mountainous; the valleys, however, are fertile, the air good, and the hills produce forests of fir, and plenty of game.

Q. What are the principal towns in Ross-shire?

A. Dingwall, Tain, and Fortrose, each of them being royal burghs. The population of the county is about 54,000; and it sends one member to parliament.

Q. What are its productions and exports?

A. Its quarries produce an abundance of stone, and a rich vein of silver and lead ore has been lately discovered in the parish of Alness. Its exports are wool, fish, butter, cheese, corn, and cattle.

Q. Describe *Cromarty*.

A. Cromarty is a very small county, being only about 16 miles long, by 7 wide. It forms a peninsula, washed on three sides by the friths of Cromarty and Moray, and bounded on the west by Ross-shire. It contains only one town, which gives name to the county. The language spoken here is generally the Gaelic, but many speak the broad Scottish, or Aberdeenshire dialect. Inhabitants rather more than 3,000.

Q. How is *Inverness-shire* bounded, &c.?

A. *Inverness-shire*, which is a large county, 90 miles in length, and at its greatest breadth 50, is bounded by the shires of Elgin, Moray, Aberdeen, Ross, Perth, Argyle, and by the Atlantic ocean, and includes several small islands situated on its coasts. The population of *Inverness-shire*, including the islands, is about 79,000.

Q. What is the general appearance of the county?

A. It is in general wild, barren, and mountainous. Ben-Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain, belongs to this county; and there are many others nearly as high. Here also are the fir woods of Glenmore and Strathspey, which are supposed to be more extensive than all the other natural woods in Scotland put together.

Q. What are the productions of *Inverness-shire*?

A. Large herds of black cattle and goats, and flocks of sheep, are reared by the farmers; and the mountains and forests are inhabited by immense herds of red and roe deer; while the mountains furnish a quantity of granite, which is esteemed the finest in the world.

Q. Which are the principal rivers?

A. The Spey, before described; the Ness, Lochy, Garry, and Glass.

CHAP. VI.

THE MIDDLE DIVISION OF SCOTLAND,

CONTAINING FOURTEEN COUNTIES.

Q. NAME the fourteen counties comprehended in the middle division.

A. Argyle, Bute, Nairn, Murray, Banff, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Angus, Perth, Fife, Kinross, Clackmannan, Stirling, and Dumbarton.

Q. What have you to observe of *Argyleshire*?

A. *Argyleshire* is about 110 miles in length, by 33 in breadth, including the isles belonging to it; and contains two royal burghs, and 49 parishes. It is bounded by *Inverness-shire* on the north, by Perth and Dumbarton on the east, by the Irish sea and the Clyde on the south, and by the Atlantic ocean on the west. Population about 86,000.

Q. Describe the appearance of this county.

A. Like other parts of the Highlands, this county is mountainous and bleak, covered with heath, and exhibiting many rugged and barren rocks. The coast is indented with bays and lakes, which afford safe harbour for shipping; and the islands attached to the county are numerous.

Q. Name the principal islands.

A. The chief are Tyrie, Coll, Mull, Isla, Jura, and Staffa; of which such as deserve mention are recorded elsewhere in this Geography.

Q. What is the chief town?

A. Argyle, which gives the title of duke to the Campbell family, the most noble and powerful among the Scottish nobility.

Q. What are the productions of Argyleshire?

A. Numerous herds of black cattle and sheep are fed on the mountains; the heaths are stored with game; and there are several mines of copper, iron, and lead.

Q. What is *Buteshire*?

A. Buteshire consists of the islands of Arran, Bute, Greater and Lesser Cambray, and Inchmarnock. The principal of these is Arran, which is nearly 24 miles long by 14 wide; Bute is about 18 miles long, and 4 wide; the others are very small. This shire sends a member to parliament alternately with Caithness, and has one royal burgh, in the isle of Bute, called Rothesay.

Q. Describe the county of *Nairn*.

A. Nairn is a small county, being but 17 miles in length, and 10 in breadth. It is bounded on the north by the Frith of Murray, and is surrounded, in all other directions, by the counties of Inverness and Elgin. Its general appearance is very agreeable, and the soil in most parts fertile.

Q. Of what political importance is it?

A. The county of Nairn returns one member to parliament alternately with Cromarty, and contains one royal burgh, Nairn. Its population is about 8,500.

Q. Describe *Murrayshire*.

A. Murrayshire, or Morayshire, is bounded on the north by that arm of the sea called Murray Frith, and on the other sides by the counties of Banff, Inverness,

and Nairn. Its length is 42 miles, and its average breadth 20; and it contains two royal burghs, namely, Elgin, the county town, and Forres; besides several other towns of less note. Sometimes this county is called Elginshire.

Q. What are its general appearance, its productions, population, &c.?

A. The southern parts are mountainous and barren, but the northern parts are in general fertile. The county of Moray, which formerly included the shires of Nairn, Moray Proper, and Banff, was anciently celebrated for its fertility and salubrity, and accounted the granary of Scotland; but it is certainly not deserving of that high character at this time. It contains about 27,000 inhabitants.

Q. Give me a description of *Banffshire*.

A. Banff, or Banffshire, is situated to the westward of Aberdeenshire, extending in length about 36 miles, and in breadth averaging about 16. It contains two royal burghs, and 24 parishes. Population, 37,000.

Q. What is its general appearance?

A. Banffshire is a very fertile and pleasant county, agreeably diversified with hill and dale. It is watered by the rivers Spey, Deveron, Isla, Conglass, Avon, and Fiddich. In this county is the mountain named Cairngorm. The county town is Banff, founded, according to tradition, by Malcolm Canmore, in 1163.

Q. What kind of a county is *Aberdeenshire*?

A. It is a very extensive county, 90 miles in length, and 46 in breadth, and containing about 140,000 inhabitants. It is bounded by the German ocean on the north and east, and on the other sides by the counties of Kincardine, Angus, Perth, and Inverness.

Q. What are its most prominent features?

A. Some parts are wild, rugged, and mountainous, particularly the district of Marr, where some of the hills rise 4,000 feet above the level of the sea; but the greater portion is diversified with hill and dale, and is tolerably fertile.

Q. Which is the capital of the county?

A. The capital of this county is New Aberdeen, 80 miles north of Edinburgh; it stands upon an estuary of the river Dee, and is a large handsome city, containing

many elegant streets, a good harbour, and being well situated for commerce.

Q. Is not the town of Old Aberdeen near?

A. Yes; Old Aberdeen is not more than a mile distant from the new town, with which, however, it is not municipally connected. In each of these towns there is a college, forming together the University of Aberdeen.

Q. For what manufactures and productions is Aberdeenshire noted?

A. In the woollen manufacture, and the knitting of stockings, are employed numbers of the poor of this county, as well as in the linen and sail-cloth manufactures; and the fisheries on the sea coast are prosecuted with great success. Aberdeenshire sends one member to parliament.

Q. Describe *Kincardineshire*.

A. Kincardineshire (sometimes called the county of Mearns) is bounded by Aberdeen on the north, by Angus on the south and west, and on the east by the ocean. It is of a triangular form, and about 50 miles in length. A part of the Grampian hills run through it, on the south of which the soil is generally fertile, though the other parts are mountainous. Population about 28,000.

Q. Where is *Angus* situated?

A. Angus, or Forfarshire, is situated to the south-west of Kincardineshire. Its utmost extent, from the eastern coast to the Grampian hills, is about 48 miles, and upwards of 40 at its greatest breadth.

Q. Describe the appearance and nature of this county.

A. The county contains many hills and valleys, or glens, and the coast is bold and rocky, presenting many dreadful precipices to the sea. Many seats of the nobility and gentry are interspersed throughout the county, and in the low country the soil is generally fertile. The principal manufactures are those of sail-cloth and brown lineens. Population about 110,000.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Dundee is the most flourishing town, though the county town is Forfar. There are also three other royal burghs, Arbroath, Montrose, and Brechin.

Q. Describe Dundee.

A. Dundee is a royal burgh, handsomely built, and

inferior to few towns in Scotland. It is situated at the foot of a hill, near the influx of the river Tay into the ocean; has a good harbour, and is otherwise well situated for commerce.

Q. Describe *Perthshire*.

A. Perthshire is one of the largest counties of Scotland, being 77 miles from east to west, and 68 miles from north to south. It is in many parts very fertile; but, like other Highland counties, abounds with lofty mountains, lakes, and rivers; of the latter, the two principal are the Tay and the Forth, which collect many other streams in their course to the German ocean. It is computed to contain about 140,000 inhabitants.

Q. Whereabout is Perthshire situated, and how is it divided?

A. It is surrounded by the counties of Angus, Argyle, Stirling, Clackmannan, and Fife, and is situated nearly in the centre of Scotland. It is divided into several districts, namely, Athol, Braidalbin, Monteith, Stratherne, Stormont, Balquhider, Gowrie, Rannach, Perth Proper, and Scone.

Q. Which is the capital?

A. Perth, which is a royal burgh, second in dignity to the metropolis, and the seat of a large presbytery. It is situated on the south bank over the river Tay, over which there is a noble bridge. The town of Perth is large, handsome, and populous, and the environs are very interesting.

Q. For what is Scone remarkable?

A. Scone is a very ancient place, the residence of many of the early Scottish kings, and the place of their coronation. In the church belonging to the abbey, there was preserved the famous stone which was used as the coronation seat of the Scottish monarchs, till Edward I. carried it to England, and placed it in Westminster Abbey, where it still continues.

Q. Give a description of *Fifeshire*.

A. Fifeshire is a peninsula, situated between the Firth of Forth and the Tay; is about 36 miles long by 14 broad; and, though agreeably diversified, and tolerably fertile, is generally mountainous. It contains about 102,000 inhabitants, including the small islands of May,

Inchcolm, and Inchgarrie, which form a part of the county.

Q. What are its productions?

A. The hills are covered with sheep, whose wool is in high estimation; and agriculture in general is flourishing. Its coasts and rivers produce plenty of fish, it has coal mines, and is advantageously situated for commerce.

Q. What town is most deserving of notice in Fifeshire?

A. St. Andrew's, once the metropolis of Scotland, and the seat of the oldest of the Scottish universities. It evidently presents the appearance of a city falling into decay; but the many ruins of its religious establishments convey to the mind an idea of its former magnificence. Couper is the county town.

Q. What may be observed of the county of *Kinross*?

A. Kinross-shire lies between the counties of Perth and Fife, is of nearly a circular form, and about 30 miles in circumference; containing only one town, Kinross.

Q. Describe *Clackmannanshire*.

A. Clackmannanshire is a small county, bounded by Perthshire, Stirlingshire, and the Frith of Forth. It is fertile, and the coast possesses many safe harbours for ships, and creeks for the fishing boats. Its population is about 12,500.

Q. Give a description of *Stirlingshire*.

A. Stirlingshire is a pleasant fertile county, situated to the south of Perthshire, and is about 36 miles long by 12 miles broad on an average. This county has been the scene of many remarkable battles, and the heroes of Ossian here performed many of their mighty exploits. Its population is estimated at about 60,000.

Q. What minerals are there?

A. Coal, iron-stone, free-stone, and lime-stone are in abundance; and veins of silver, copper, cobalt, and lead have been found.

Q. What is the principal town?

A. Stirling; this town stands on the descent of a hill, on the top of which is a stately old castle; and that it is a place of great antiquity, is evident from its having received a charter from Alexander I. in 1120.

Q. What other county belongs to the middle division?

A. Dumbartonshire*, or, as it was anciently called, the county of Lennox. This county, which is about 40 miles long, and 12 broad, is bounded on the north by Perthshire, and on the south by the river Clyde. In this county is the celebrated Loch Lomond. The population is about 22,000. Principal town, Dumbarton.

CHAP. VII.

THE SOUTHERN DIVISION OF SCOTLAND,

CONTAINING THIRTEEN COUNTIES.

Q. NAME the counties belonging to the southern division.

A. Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Haddington, Berwick, Renfrew, Ayr, Wigton, Lanark, Peebles, Selkirk, Roxburgh, Dumfries, and Kirkcudbright.

Q. Describe *Linlithgow*.

A. Linlithgowshire is a small county to the south of Stirlingshire, being about 20 miles long; by 12 broad. It is sometimes termed West Lothian. The soil of this county is rich and highly improved by culture, and its surface is finely diversified with hill and dale, and the number of seats which every where meet the eye give it a delightful appearance.

Q. What have you to observe of *Edinburghshire*?

A. Edinburghshire, or Mid-Lothian, is bounded by the Frith of Forth on the north, and by the counties of Lanark, Peebles, and Berwick on the south, extending in length 30 miles, and in breadth nearly 20. It abounds in minerals, is fertile, well cultivated, and pleasant, and contains about 150,000 inhabitants.

Q. Does not this county contain the metropolis of Scotland?

A. Yes; Edinburgh, the metropolis of Scotland, is situate in the northern part of this county, and is 309 miles from London. It is divided into two parts, the Old and the New Town, the latter of which is very handsome and

* Very often spelt Dumbartonshire.

modern. On a rugged and precipitous rock, at the western extremity of the Old Town, stands the castle, which was formerly deemed impregnable.

Q. Describe the old part of the city more particularly.

A. The High-street of Edinburgh is built on the ridge of a hill lying east and west, and the lanes, or closes, running down its sides north and south. The houses are very lofty, and divided into stories, each of which contains a suite of rooms, in general large and commodious, for the use of a family; so that the High-street of Edinburgh, which is chiefly of hewn stone, broad, and well paved, makes a very grand appearance.

Q. What is its length?

A. It rises a full mile in a direct line and gradual ascent from the palace of Holyrood House on the east, and is terminated on the west by the rude majesty of its ancient castle, which overlooks the surrounding country.

Q. What may be observed of the more modern part of the city of Edinburgh?

A. The part called the New Town occupies an elevated plain to the north, and the southern district is situated on a rising ground in an opposite direction. It consists of three great parallel streets, nearly a mile in length, intersected by cross streets at regular and convenient distances; and it may be truly said, that for extent, regularity, and beauty, the New Town of Edinburgh is nowhere excelled.

Q. What are the principal buildings in the Old Town?

A. The Castle, the Abbey and Palace of Holyrood House, the Cathedral Church of St. Giles, the Tron Church, the Court of Session, and the Royal Exchange.

Q. What buildings of importance grace the New Town?

A. The New College, the Excise Office, the Custom House, Heriot's Hospital, and many other charitable institutions; besides several handsome squares and churches, and a fine obelisk, 130 feet high, erected on the Calton Hill to the memory of Lord Nelson. Our limits, however, prevent us from entering into further particulars.

Q. We will now proceed to a description of *Haddingtonshire*.

A. The county of Haddington is situated to the north-east of Edinburghshire. It is also called East-Lothian, and is 25 miles long by about 14 broad, and is reckoned one of the most fertile in the kingdom. Agriculture is successfully carried on here; the inhabitants on the coast employ themselves in the fishery, and in sail-making; and in the inland parts several branches of the linen and woollen manufacture have been established.

Q. What are its mineral productions, the names of the chief towns, and the population of the county?

A. Coal, free-stone, lime-stone, and iron-stone, are in abundance. Haddington, North Berwick, and Dunbar, are the three royal burghs; and the population of the county is estimated at 32,000.

Q. Describe *Berwickshire*.

A. Berwickshire is of an irregular square form, 34 miles in length, and about 20 in breadth; it is bounded on the north by East-Lothian, on the south by the river Tweed and the English border, and on the east by the German ocean. The chief rivers are the Tweed, the Leader, the Eye, and the Whittader.

Q. What is the general character of this county?

A. It is principally an agricultural county, and its inhabitants are intelligent and industrious. The rivers contain trout and salmon, of which last a great quantity is annually sent to London from the town of Berwick. The county contains several large towns and villages, and one royal burgh, named Lauder. The population is about 31,000.

Q. What have you to remark of the town of Berwick?

A. Berwick is a royal burgh, situated on the borders of England, and forming a town and county of itself. It is pleasantly situated on a gentle declivity, close by the sea, and surrounded by high walls, regularly fortified. It is joined to England by a bridge across the Tweed, 947 feet long. Although it is not acknowledged to belong either to England or Scotland, yet the English judges hold assizes here, and the church is a rectory in the diocese of Durham. It contains about 7,500 inhabitants.

Q. What kind of county is *Renfrewshire*?

A. Renfrewshire extends about 28 miles from east to

west, and varies in its breadth from 10 to 24 miles. It is bounded on the east by Lanarkshire, on the south by Ayrshire, and on the other sides by the Frith of Clyde, which forms several beautiful creeks and bays, on three of which are the sea-port towns of Greenock, Gourock, and Port Glasgow.

Q. What are its general features?

A. The face of the country is varied with hill and dale, wood and water; but the soil is in general barren. It contains one royal burgh, Renfrew; and several large towns, as Paisley, (a large manufacturing town, with a population of 30,000), Greenock, and Port Glasgow; and about 95,000 inhabitants.

Q. Where is *Ayrshire* situated?

A. Ayrshire lies to the east of the Frith of Clyde, and is, generally speaking, a pleasant, level, and tolerably fertile county. It is about 65 miles long by 35 broad, and is divided into three great stewartries, which bear the names of Kyle, Cunningham, and Carrick. The population amounts to about 105,000.

Q. What are the productions of this county?

A. Its mineral productions are coal, various kinds of stone, and several rich ores of lead and copper. The rivers abound with salmon, and the coasts are well supplied with other fish.

Q. Name the principal towns.

A. Ayr and Irvine, two royal burghs, and several populous towns and parishes; of which Kilmarnock, Beith, Saltcoats, Kilwinning, Langs, Girvan, and Ballan-tree, are the chief.

Q. What is the next county?

A. *Wigtonshire*, sometimes called Upper or West Galloway. This county, which is 30 miles in length by about 10 in breadth, is situated to the south of Ayrshire, and is bounded on the south and west by the ocean. It is not remarkable either for fertility or beauty of scenery; contains three royal burghs, viz. Wigton, Stranraer, and Whithorn; and a population of nearly 30,000.

Q. Describe *Lanarkshire*.

A. The county of Lanark, sometimes called Clydesdale, is 50 miles long, and 35 broad. It is situated to the

south-west of Edinburghshire, and is divided into two districts, namely, the shire of Lanark and the barony of Glasgow. The Clyde rises in the southern border of this county, and runs north and west the whole extent, dividing it into nearly two equal parts.

Q. What is the general appearance of this county?

A. For the most part it is mountainous; but towards the Clyde the face of the country is agreeably diversified, and the scenery about the town of Lanark is peculiarly interesting. It contains two royal burghs, Glasgow and Lanark; and several considerable towns and villages, as Hamilton, Douglas, Biggar, Carnwath, &c.

Q. What kind of a town is Glasgow?

A. For population, commerce, and riches, Glasgow is the second city in Scotland; and inferior to none of its size in Great Britain, in the elegance and regularity of its buildings, the most magnificent of which is the cathedral or high church. It contains numerous manufactories, particularly of woollen and cotton; and carries on a very extensive foreign trade.

Q. For what is Lanark remarkable?

A. The first parliament mentioned in Scottish history was held at Lanark, by Kenneth II., in 978; and it was the scene of sir William Wallace's first military exploit; it being in this town that he defeated and put to death William de Hesilrig, who had murdered his wife. New Lanark (adjoining the burgh of Lanark) consists of very extensive cotton mills, erected in 1785, by Mr. David Dale, and now conducted by Mr. Owen, whose plan for bettering the condition of the poor was lately the theme of so much discussion.

Q. Where is *Peebles-shire* situated, and for what is it noted?

A. *Peebles-shire* (otherwise *Tweeddale*), 36 miles in length, and averaging about 12 in breadth, is situated southward of Edinburghshire, between Lanarkshire and Selkirkshire. It is particularly fertile in pasturage, well watered with rivers, and contains several lakes. The only town worthy of notice is *Peebles*, which is pleasantly situated on the river *Tweed*.

Q. Give a brief description of *Selkirkshire*.

A. Selkirkshire is a small mountainous county, intersected by numerous streams, and containing only two towns, of which Selkirk is the principal. It is 20 miles long by about 10 broad, and is situated southward of Peebles-shire.

Q. What is *Roxburghshire*?

A. Roxburghshire, or as it is sometimes called, Tiviotdale, is rather a small county, abounding with the most romantic scenery, agreeably diversified with hill and dale, and well watered by the Tweed, Tiviot, and other rivers. The Cheviot hills run through the whole county, from east to west, and divide it from England. Jedburgh is the principal town.

Q. Describe *Dumfries-shire*.

A. Dumfries-shire is bounded on the south by the English county of Cumberland, and the Solway Frith. Its length is about 60 miles, and its greatest breadth 30. A great part of the country is mountainous, overspread with heath, and well stocked with game; but the valleys, through which the Esk, the Annan, and other rivers run, are fertile and pleasant.

Q. What are the chief productions of this county?

A. It produces an abundance of cattle; and the rivers are well stored with trout and salmon. For mineral productions few counties in Scotland surpass it; the lead mines being rich in silver, and particles of gold being frequently found in veins of quartz, which is washed down into the sand of the rivulets. Coal, lime-stone, and free-stone are also abundant.

Q. What are the principal towns?

A. Dumfries-shire contains four royal burghs, Dumfries, Annan, Sanquhar, and Lochmaben; and several small towns; the principal of these is Dumfries, which may be properly styled the capital of the south-west part of Scotland.

Q. What other county remains to be noticed?

A. The shire of *Kirkcudbright*, which comprehends the eastern district of Galloway, and extends about 45 miles in length by 30 in breadth. It is bounded on the south by the Solway Frith and the Irish Sea, and on the other sides by the counties of Dumfries, Wigton, and Ayr. The face of the country exhibits the appearance of one large heath,

intersected with some pleasant valleys and numerous streams. It contains about 34,000 inhabitants, and two royal burghs, Kirkcudbright and New Galloway.

CHAP. VIII.

THE SCOTTISH ISLES.

Q. How are the islands belonging to Scotland classed?

A. The Scottish Isles fall under three divisions; namely, those of Shetland, Orkney, and the Hebrides, or Western Isles, anciently called the Hebudes.

Q. Describe them.

A. The Shetland and Orkney Islands have already been noticed, as forming the most northern county. The Hebrides, or Western Isles, are very numerous, and some of them large; situate between 55° and 59° of north latitude.

Q. What have you to remark of their climate?

A. There is very little difference in the climate of the Scottish Isles, the air being keen and piercing, but healthy, many of the natives living to an advanced age. In the Shetland and Orkney Islands they can see to read at midnight in June and July, their longest day being more than 19 hours; but their shortest day is, in consequence, less than 5 hours.

Q. Is there much communication kept up between these islanders?

A. During the summer months they have frequent communications with each other and with the continent; but during the rest of the year these islands are almost inaccessible, through fogs, darkness, and storms.

Q. Do the manners and customs of the inhabitants differ from those of the Scotch in general?

A. In the islands of Shetland and Orkney the people differ but little from the lowlanders of Scotland. In some of the most northerly islands the Norwegian, which is called the Norse language, is spoken; and owing to their intercourse with the Dutch in the fishing season, that language is common in the Shetland and Orkney Isles.

Q. Whom do the inhabitants of the Hebrides resemble?

A. The people of the Hebrides are clothed and live like the Highlanders already described: they are similar in persons, constitutions, customs, and prejudices. Their shanachies, or story-tellers, supply the place of the ancient bards, so famous in history; and are the historians, or rather genealogists, as well as poets, of the nation and family.

Q. How do the common people fare?

A. In the Shetland Isles they live upon butter, cheese, fish, sea and land fowl (of which they have a great plenty, particularly geese); and their usual drink is whey, which they have the art to ferment, so as to give it a vinous quality. In the Hebrides they are more accustomed to animal food, and in general fare better.

Q. What are their customs?

A. When a chief appears abroad he is generally attended by a bag-piper, in a sumptuous minstrel's dress. They indulge themselves, like their forefathers, in a romantic poetical turn; and the agility of both sexes, in the exercises of the field, and in dancing to their favourite music, is remarkable.

CHAP. IX.

IRELAND.

Q. WHAT is Ireland?

A. Ireland is an island lying to the west of that of Great Britain, and belonging to the British empire. When spoken of relatively to England, it is termed *the sister kingdom*.

Q. In what degrees of latitude and longitude is it situated?

A. Ireland is situated between 51° and 56° north latitude, and between 5° and 10° west longitude; being separated from England and Wales by St. George's Channel, and from Scotland by the Irish Sea, and bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

Q. Of what size is Ireland?

A. Its length, from north to south, is 286 miles, and its greatest breadth 160. The distance from Dublin to Holy-

head in North Wales is about 52 miles, and from Donaghadee to Port Patrick in Scotland, about 20 miles.

Q. How is Ireland divided?

A. Ireland is divided into four provinces; Ulster to the north, Connaught to the west, Leinster to the east, and Munster to the south.

Q. Are these provinces subdivided into counties, &c.?

A. Yes; in the whole there are thirty-two counties; Ulster contains nine; Connaught, five; Leinster, twelve; and Munster, six.

Q. Does the climate of Ireland differ from that of England?

A. Not very materially. It may, however, be remarked, that it is not so hot in summer, nor so cold in winter, as in England; nor is the air so clear and pure, owing to the numerous bogs and morasses with which Ireland abounds.

Q. Is that the only reason you can ascribe for the humidity of the climate?

A. It is evidently a great reason; but it may be also in some measure accounted for by observing, that the westerly winds, so favourable to other regions, and so beneficial even in this, by qualifying the rigor of the northern air, are yet hurtful in the extreme, as they waft hither the vapours of an immense ocean. From this cause, the sky in Ireland is much obscured, and the vapours descend in such constant rains as in some seasons to threaten destruction to the fruits of the earth.

Q. Has Ireland a fertile soil?

A. Yes; in general the soil is very fertile, well watered with lakes and rivers. It produces corn, hemp, and flax, in great plenty; and their herds of cattle are so numerous, that their beef and butter are exported into foreign parts.

Q. What are the principal commodities and riches of Ireland?

A. Cattle, hides, wool, tallow, butter, cheese, wood, salt, honey, wax, furs, and hemp; but their staple commodity, which they have brought to the highest perfection, is their fine linen cloth.

Q. Does the situation of Ireland offer many commercial advantages?

A. Yes; the country is exceedingly well situated for

foreign trade, and has many secure and commodious bays, creeks, and harbours.

Q. Of what political importance is Ireland, and how governed?

A. Since the union of Ireland with England, which took place in 1801, the former has furnished 100 members of the British parliament. It is governed by a lord lieutenant and council, appointed by the king of England.

Q. What is the national character?

A. The native Irish are impatient of abuse and injury, quick of apprehension, revengeful, ardent in their affections, and hospitable. Indeed their hospitality is proverbial; and their hearty salutations and familiar manner of address soon make a stranger forget that he is from home.

Q. Is Ireland rich in mineral productions?

A. No; till of late years, the Irish have been very regardless of their mines; nevertheless, copper, lead, iron, and even silver, are to be met with, though not in great abundance. They have quarries of marble, slate, and free-stone, and some coal, but the chief part of their fuel is turf.

CHAP. X.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Q. WHAT counties are comprehended in the province of Ulster?

A. Ulster comprehends the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Monaghan, and Tyrone.

Q. Describe the county of *Antrim*.

A. Antrim contains many bogs and marshes, but the cultivated parts are tolerably fertile. It is 56 miles in length, and 32 in breadth; is bounded on the north and east by the sea, on the south by the county of Down, and on the west by Londonderry and Tyrone. Population, 160,000.

Q. Which is the chief town?

A. Belfast, which for extent, wealth, trade, and number of inhabitants, is the most considerable town in all this

part of Ireland. It is the centre of the linen manufactures, and carries on a considerable trade with Scotland.

Q. What great natural curiosity does this county possess?

A. That grand natural curiosity called the Giant's Causeway is situated at the northern extremity of this county. It consists of a very considerable series of basaltic columns, the particulars of which are described in the note below*.

Q. What may be observed of *Armagh*?

A. The county of Armagh is 32 miles long by 20 broad, and is surrounded by the counties of Down, Tyrone, Monaghan, and Lough. Its soil is rich and well cultivated, the ridge of mountains which runs across it, called the Fewes, excepted. It is a great linen country, and contains 120,000 inhabitants.

* The Giant's Causeway is thus described by Dr. Pococke, bishop of Ossory, a celebrated traveller and antiquary: He says, that "he measured the most westerly point at high water, to the distance of three hundred and sixty feet from the cliff; but he was told, that at low water it extended sixty feet farther upon a descent, till it was lost in the sea. Upon measuring the eastern point, he found it five hundred and forty feet from the cliff; and saw as much more of it as of the other, where it winds to the east, and is, like that, lost in the water.

"The causeway is composed of pillars, all of angular shapes, from three sides to eight. The eastern point, where it joins the rock, terminates in a perpendicular cliff, formed by the upright sides of the pillars, some of which are thirty-three feet four inches high. Each pillar consists of several joints of stones, lying one upon another, from six inches to about one foot in thickness; and, what is very surprising, some of these joints are so convex, that their prominences are nearly quarters of spheres, round each of which is a ledge, which holds them together with the greatest firmness, every stone being concave on the other side, and fitting in the exactest manner the convexity of the upper part of that beneath it. The pillars are from one to two feet in diameter, and generally consist of about forty joints, most of which separate very easily, and one may walk along upon the tops of the pillars as far as the edge of the water.

"But this is not the most singular part of this extraordinary curiosity, the cliffs themselves being still more surprising. From the bottom, which is of black stone, to the height of about sixty feet, they are divided at equal distances by stripes of a reddish stone that resembles a cement, about four inches in thickness; upon this there is another stratum of the same black stone, with a stratum of five inches thick of the red. Over this is another stratum, ten feet thick, divided in the same manner; then a stratum of the red stone twenty feet deep, and above that a stratum of upright pillars; above these pillars lies another stratum of black stone twenty feet high; and above this again, another stratum of upright pillars, rising in some places to the tops of the cliffs, in others not so high, and in others again above it, where they are called the chimneys. The face of these cliffs extends about three English miles."

Q. Which is the principal town?

A. Armagh is the county town. It is the see of an archbishop, who is primate of all Ireland.

Q. Where is *Cavan* situated, &c.?

A. The county of Cavan is surrounded by the counties of Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan, Fermanagh, and Meath; is about 47 miles long by 24 broad, and contains upwards of 80,000 inhabitants. Cavan is its capital.

Q. What kind of county is *Donegal*?

A. Donegal is a large county, extending 68 miles in length, and 36 in breadth; bounded on the west and north by the ocean, on the east by the counties of Londonderry and Tyrone, and on the south by Fermanagh and the bay of Donegal. The linen trade is carried on here to a considerable extent, and it contains about 140,000 inhabitants.

Q. Describe the county of *Down*.

A. The county of Down is large, rich, and populous; being 45 miles long and 30 broad, and containing 205,000 inhabitants. Its boundaries are, on the west Armagh, on the north-west Antrim, on the south Carlingford Bay and Louth, and on the other sides, the bay of Carrickfergus and the Irish Channel. It is a fertile county, and abounds with neat habitations.

Q. Name the principal town.

A. Downpatrick, near which are the remains of an old cathedral, remarkable for containing the tomb of its founder St. Patrick, the tutelar saint of Ireland.

Q. Describe *Fermanagh*.

A. Fermanagh, situated between the counties of Leitrim, Donegal, Tyrone, and Cavan, is about 35 miles long by 25 broad, and navigable throughout its whole length by means of the Lakes of Lough Erne. The linen manufacture and rearing cattle form the chief trade of this county. Population, 72,000. Enniskillen is the principal town.

Q. What is the size and situation of the county of *Derry*?

A. Derry, Londonderry, or Coleraine, is about 40 miles long by 30 in breadth; and is bounded by Antrim on the east, by Donegal on the west, by Tyrone on the south, and by the ocean on the north.

Q. What is the nature of this county?

A. It is an open fruitful county, and the linen manufacture is carried on to a very considerable extent. Population about 125,000. The modern city of Londonderry is its capital.

Q. What kind of county is *Monaghan*?

A. The county of Monaghan is mountainous, woody, and marshy, extending in length about 30 miles, and in breadth 20. It is encompassed by the counties of Armagh, Lough, Fermanagh, Cavan, Tyrone, and East Meath. Its inhabitants are computed at 120,000, many of whom are employed in the linen trade. Monaghan is the principal town.

Q. What other county belongs to Ulster province?

A. *Tyrone*, which is about 45 miles long and 30 broad, and containing nearly 30,000 inhabitants. In some parts this county is rich and fertile, in others, rough and mountainous. It is situated to the south-west of Londonderry.

Q. What are its principal towns?

A. Omagh, the assize town, Clogher and Dromore, both bishopricks; and Dungannon, a borough, near which are some coal-mines.

CHAP. XI.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT,

CONTAINING FIVE COUNTIES.

Q. NAME the counties that are comprehended in this division.

A. Connaught comprehends the counties of Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, and Sligo.

Q. Describe the county of *Galway*.

A. Galway, in point of size, is the second county in the kingdom, being about 80 miles long, and 50 broad. It is bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on its other sides by Mayo, Roscommon, King's County, Clare, and Tipperary; and contains 150,000 inhabitants.

Q. What is its general character?

A. It is in general fertile in corn, pasture, and cattle; and on the coast are many well sheltered harbours.

Q. What is the chief town?

A. The city of Galway, which is seated on a noble bay, admirably situated for foreign trade, which it carries on, particularly to the West Indies, to a considerable extent. It is a well-built, strong, and flourishing place. Tuam, an archbishoprick, is also in this county.

Q. What may be observed of *Leitrim*?

A. The county of Leitrim is in the northern parts mountainous, but in the southern level; tolerably fertile throughout, and furnishing food for vast herds of cattle. It is about 45 miles long by 18 broad, and is bounded on the north by Donegal Bay. Its principal town is Leitrim, pleasantly seated on the banks of the Shannon.

Q. Where is the county of *Mayo* situate, and what is its character?

A. The county of Mayo is bounded on the north and west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by Galway; and is about 50 miles in length by 45 in breadth; containing 45,000 inhabitants. The interior of the county is fertile, and has many lakes and rivers, but the western coast is mountainous and very thinly inhabited.

Q. Name the chief towns.

A. Mayo was formerly the principal town, but it has of late gone much to decay; and Ballinrobe has assumed the superiority, though the assizes, &c. are held at Castlebar.

Q. Describe the county of *Roscommon*.

A. Roscommon is bounded on the east by the river Shannon, on the west by Mayo, and on the north by Sligo; extending in length about 50 miles, and varying in breadth from 10 to 30. It is a healthy and fruitful country. The county town, Roscommon, is an inconsiderable place, but Athlone is much larger. Ballinasloe, in this county, is remarkable for having the largest beast fairs in the British dominions, twice a year.

Q. Is there not another county in this province?

A. Yes; the county of Sligo, which is 32 miles long, and nearly 30 at its greatest breadth. It is bounded on the north and north-west by the Atlantic, and on the other sides by the counties of Leitrim, Roscommon, and Mayo. In some parts the soil is good, but generally speaking boggy. Sligo, a sea-port town, is the capital. Population of the county about 60,000.

CHAP. XII.

"THE PROVINCE OF LEINSTER,

CONTAINING TWELVE COUNTIES.

Q. For what is the province of Leinster noted?

A. For being the most level and best cultivated province in the kingdom, and for containing the metropolis.

Q. Tell me what counties compose the province of Leinster.

A. Dublin, Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, King's County, Longford, Louth, East Meath, Queen's County, West Meath, Wexford, and Wicklow.

Q. Describe the county of *Dublin*.

A. It is bounded on the east by the Irish Sea, on the west by Kildare, on the north-west by East Meath, and on the south by Wicklow. Its length is about 26 miles, breadth 17. The soil is rich and fertile in producing corn, pasture for cattle, &c.

Q. Where is Dublin, the capital of the county and metropolis of Ireland, situated?

A. Dublin is delightfully situated on the banks of the Liffey, and is a large, handsome, and populous city, containing nearly 200,000 inhabitants. The streets are well paved and regular, the squares spacious and elegant, and the public buildings superb. The view of the metropolis and the Bay of Dublin, as you approach them from the sea, is grand and beautiful, and the scenery round extremely picturesque.

Q. What public buildings of note are there?

A. The chief are the cathedral of St. Patrick, the late Parliament House, the Custom House, Royal Exchange, University, Castle, and the Lodge. Dublin is about 10 miles in circumference, and has six bridges across the Liffey.

Q. Proceed with a description of *Carlow*.

A. The county of Carlow is surrounded by Queen's County, Wicklow, Wexford, Kildare, and Kilkenny; is 28 miles long, and 18 at its greatest breadth. Its population is reckoned at 45,000, and the chief town is named Carlow.

Q. Describe the county of *Kildare*.

A. Kildare is a fine, arable, fertile county, watered by the rivers Barrow, Liffey, and Boyne. On its borders are the counties of Carlow, Dublin, Wicklow, Meath, and King and Queen's County. It contains about 58,000 inhabitants, and is 35 miles long by 20 broad. The chief town is Kildare.

Q. What kind of a county is *Kilkenny*?

A. Kilkenny is a fine, healthy, and fertile county, producing corn, wool, marble, and a species of coal which burns without emitting smoke. It is bounded by Tipperary, Queen's County, Wexford, Carlow, and Waterford. Population 100,000.

Q. What is the name of its capital?

A. Like most other of the chief towns in Ireland, it gives name to the county. The city of Kilkenny is populous and commercial, and, in point of building, one of the neatest in the kingdom; the houses being decorated with beautiful black and white marble, which is dug from quarries in the neighbourhood.

Q. From what does *King's County* take its name?

A. It was so named from King Philip of Spain, husband to Queen Mary, as was Queen's County from the queen. King's County is 35 miles long by 20 broad; and is bounded by West Meath, Kildare, Queen's County, and Tipperary. That extensive morass called the Bog of Allen is situated in it, but the soil is in some parts very fertile. Population 75,000. Philipstown is the capital.

Q. Describe the county of *Longford*.

A. Longford is bounded on the west by the river Shannon, and by the counties of Leitrim, West Meath, and Cavan; 21 miles long by 14 broad. It is a pleasant county, and in general fertile, though many parts are very boggy. Linen is the staple manufacture. Its population is about 50,000.

Q. Give a description of the county of *Louth*.

A. Louth is the smallest county in the whole kingdom, being little more than 20 miles in length, and 12 in breadth. It is divided from Meath by the river Boyne, and bounded on the west and north by Monaghan and Armagh, and on the east by St. George's Channel.

Q. What is its population, and which the chief towns?

A. Louth contains about 58,000 inhabitants. Its chief towns are Drogheda and Dundalk.

Q. By what counties is *East Meath* bounded, &c.?

A. By the counties of Louth, Dublin, West Meath, Monaghan, Cavan, Kildare, and King's County, and on the east by the Irish Sea. In length it is about 35 miles, and in breadth 30; containing nearly 113,000 inhabitants.

Q. What is its general appearance?

A. It is a fine open country, abounding with corn, and fattening numerous flocks and herds. Trim is the county town.

Q. Describe *Queen's County*.

A. Queen's County is about 25 miles square, adjoining King's County on the north and west, and bounded by Kildare and Kilkenny on the east and south. It was formerly full of bogs and woods, but it is now tolerably well enclosed and cultivated. Population about 82,000. Chief town, Maryborough, or Queen's Town.

Q. Describe the boundaries, soil, &c. of *West Meath*.

A. West Meath is bounded on the west by Longford and Roscommon, on the north by Cavan, on the east by Kildare and East Meath, and on the south by King's County. It is nearly 40 miles long by 20 broad; and produces considerable quantities of corn and cattle.

Q. Name the chief town.

A. Mullingar is the chief town, where the second great fair in the kingdom for wool is held. Athlone is, however, the most considerable place.

Q. Describe the county of *Wexford*.

A. Wexford is a maritime county, about 40 miles long by 20 broad; and, on the east is St. George's Channel, on the south the Atlantic Ocean, on the north the county of Wicklow, and on the west, Carlow, Waterford, and Kilkenny.

Q. What is its general character?

A. The soil in some parts is very coarse and barren, but in others tolerably fertile; and the air is good. The chief town is named Wexford.

Q. Describe it.

A. Wexford is a large ancient town, and was at one

time reckoned the capital of Ireland, being the first colony of the English ; it is still a handsome place, and of considerable importance, with a beautiful and commodious harbour. The town is seated at the mouth of the river Slaney, and contains between nine and ten thousand inhabitants, many of whom are employed in the woollen manufacture.

Q. Is not the county of *Wicklow* also in this province ?

A. Yes ; *Wicklow*, which is bounded on the east by *St. George's Channel*, and on the other sides by *Dublin*, *Kildare*, *Carlow*, and *Wexford*, is about 30 miles in length, and 20 in breadth, and contains 60,000 inhabitants.

Q. What are its principal features ?

A. It is mountainous and woody ; at the same time presenting many picturesque views, from beautiful waterfalls and other romantic scenery. The valleys are fertile and well cultivated, and in the hills rich veins of copper and other minerals are found, and lately some gold has been discovered. *Wicklow*, the capital of the county, is noted for having the best in the kingdom.

CHAP. XIII.

THE PROVINCE OF MUNSTER,

CONTAINING SIX COUNTIES.

Q. WHAT remarks are applicable to the province of *Munster* ?

A. *Munster* is the most mountainous of the four provinces ; and there is almost a total absence of lakes, except that of *Killarney*, which is esteemed the most beautiful lake in Ireland.

Q. Name the counties belonging to this province.

A. *Clare*, *Cork*, *Kerry*, *Limerick*, *Tipperary*, and *Waterford*.

Q. Describe the county of *Clare*.

A. The county of *Clare* is nearly 50 miles long, and upwards of 30 in breadth ; bounded on the west by the *Atlantic*, on the north by *Galway*, and on the east and south by the river *Shannon*. Its population is estimated

at nearly 100,000, and in it are bred great numbers of horses, cattle, and sheep. Ennis is the county town.

Q. What are the boundaries, extent, and population of the county of *Cork*?

A. Cork is the largest county in the kingdom, being 85 miles long, and 60 broad. It is bounded on the south and west by the ocean, on the north by Limerick, and on the east by Waterford; and contains 420,000 inhabitants.

Q. Describe its leading features.

A. Though a considerable part of this county is mountainous and boggy, yet much of it is very fertile, and the agriculture has of late years been much improved. It abounds with excellent harbours, and has many fine rivers. The city of Cork is its capital.

Q. What may be observed of the city of Cork?

A. That it is the second city in Ireland, in magnitude, riches, and commerce. Its population is said to be 100,000, part of whom are engaged in trade. The haven, called the Cove of Cork, is deep, and well sheltered from all winds; but small vessels only can come up to the city, which stands about seven miles up the river Lee. The chief exports of Cork are beef, pork, butter, tallow, hides, and linen cloth.

Q. Describe the county of *Kerry*.

A. Kerry is in general a barren and dreary county, but the soil in some particular spots is fruitful in corn and grass. It possesses many fine harbours; and considerable quantities of beef, butter, hides, and tallow, are sent from its ports. Its length is 55 miles, varying in its breadth from 20 to 40 miles.

Q. What are its boundaries, population, &c.?

A. Kerry is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, by the river Shannon on the north, and by the counties of Limerick and Cork on the east and south. Population about 108,000. In this county are several mineral springs and some iron ore. Tralee is its capital.

Q. Give me some description of the county of *Limerick*.

A. Limerick is upwards of 40 miles long by 25 broad. On the north it is bounded by Clare, on the west by Kerry, on the south by Cork, and on the west by Tipperary. It contains about 170,000 inhabitants; and is a fertile pleasant country, though some parts are mountainous.

Q. What may be observed of the chief town?

A. The city of Limerick was formerly reckoned the second in Ireland; but it has now lost its rank, in consequence of the flourishing state of Cork. Still Limerick is of very considerable importance, both as a manufacturing town, and as carrying on a good export trade in provisions. It is situated on the Shannon, which is here very wide.

Q. What have you to remark of *Tipperary*?

A. That it is in general a very fertile country; but towards the north mountainous and barren, the highest mountain in Ireland, called *Phelimdhe Madina*, being situated there. *Tipperary* is 52 miles long, varying much in its breadth; and is bounded by *King's County*, *Galway*, *Queen's County*, *Waterford*, *Clare*, and *Limerick*. Population 170,000. *Clonmell* is the county town, and *Cashell* is an archbishoprick.

Q. Describe the remaining county, *Waterford*.

A. The county of *Waterford* is bounded on the south by *St. George's Channel*, and on the other sides by *Cork*, *Kilkenny*, and *Tipperary*. It is estimated to contain 110,000 inhabitants; and though generally mountainous, with some frightful rocks and precipices, is a fine, rich, and pleasant country.

Q. What is the name of its capital?

A. The capital is *Waterford*, a city and sea-port, containing about 35,000 inhabitants. It has an excellent harbour, and a great deal of export trade is carried on. For many weeks together, upwards of 3,000 hogs are killed weekly; and 70,000 casks of butter have been exported in one year, besides beef, corn, linen, &c.

CHAP. XIV.

THE FOREIGN POSSESSIONS

BELONGING TO

GREAT BRITAIN.

Q. WHAT are the foreign possessions belonging to Great Britain?

A. The foreign possessions of Great Britain are very

numerous, and are situated in all the four quarters of the world.

Q. What are those in Europe?

A. These are the kingdom of Hanover, Heligoland, Gibraltar, and the island of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea, the Norman Isles, and the Isle of Man.

Q. What are the British dominions in America?

A. These are Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, the wild regions of Labrador, and the country surrounding Hudson's Bay, the West India Islands, with some few others of less note.

Q. What are the British possessions in Africa?

A. These are the settlement of Sierra Leone, Goree, St. Helena, and the Cape of Good Hope.

Q. What are the British possessions in Asia?

A. These are the East Indies, which include the great part of Hindostan, with the adjacent isles, New South Wales and the Isle of Mauritius.

HANOVER.

Q. Describe *Hanover*.

A. The kingdom of Hanover is of very considerable extent, comprehending the dutchies of Zell, Taxe, Lawenburg, Bremen, and Lunenburg; and the principalities of Calenburg, Verden, Oberwald, Hoyer, &c. Hanover is situated between the rivers Weser and Elbe. Its chief products are timber, cattle, hogs, beer, minerals, quicksilver, vitriol, and brimstone.

Q. What is its capital?

A. Hanover, which is situated in the principality of Calenburg. This is a very handsome, well-built, and populous city. It is noted for its manufactures of lace, stuffs, stockings, and ribands.

Q. Describe *Heligoland*.

A. Heligoland, a very small island, is situated off the mouth of the river Elbe. It was taken by the English from the Danes, during the late war.

GIBRALTAR.

Q. Describe *Gibraltar*.

A. Gibraltar, once a celebrated town and fortress in Andalusia, in Spain, is now in the possession of Great

Britain. It is situated on a rock, in the most southern part of Spain, and is considered the strongest fortress in the world.

Q. When did the English gain possession of it?

A. It was taken by the English in the year 1704; and will be ever memorable for the fatal discomfiture of the united forces of France and Spain in 1782, after a close siege of three years. It was defended by general Elliott, afterwards baron Heathfield.

Q. Describe the fortress and town.

A. In the fortress are 300 pieces of canon mounted. The town consists of several streets, one of which is spacious and well paved; the others are narrow and dirty. It contains about 5,000 inhabitants, about half of which are English, and the remainder are about an equal number of Spaniards, Portuguese, Genoese, and Jews.

MALTA.

Q. Describe *Malta*.

A. Malta is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, about 20 miles in length, and 12 in breadth. It was anciently little else than a barren rock, but it is now well cultivated and very fertile. It produces excellent fruits, cottons, honey, and good pastures. The number of inhabitants is about 100,000.

THE NORMAN ISLES.

Q. What are the Norman Isles?

A. The Norman Isles are Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark.

Q. Describe *Guernsey*.

A. Guernsey is an island in the English Channel, near the coast of France, and is about 30 miles in circumference. It has been subject to England ever since the Norman conquest. The air is healthy, and the soil is rich and very fertile. It produces corn, pasture, and cattle in great abundance. The natives for the greater part speak French.

Q. Describe *Jersey*.

A. Jersey, an island in the English Channel, is about twelve miles in length, and six in breadth. Its chief towns are St. Helier and St. Aubin. The inhabitants of Jersey

are about 20,000. It is noted for its manufacture of stockings and caps. This island is well watered with rivulets, and in general rich and fertile.

Q. Describe the isles of *Alderney* and *Sark*.

A. Alderney, off the coast of Normandy, is small, but very pleasant and healthy. It is also fertile in corn and pasture, and is very remarkable for its fine breed of cows. It is about six miles from France, and thirty from England. Alderney contains about 200 houses, and about 1,000 inhabitants.

Q. What melancholy historical events are connected with it?

A. Near this island lie the range of rocks called the *Caskets*, where the son of Henry the First was shipwrecked on his passage to France; and here also was lost the *Victory*, a first-rate man of war, and one of the finest ships in the world, on the 5th of October, 1744.

Q. Describe *Sark*.

A. Sark is a very small island, near the coast of France, about two miles in length, and nearly the same in breadth. The air of this island is remarkably healthful; and the soil, though hot and sandy, affords every necessary of life. It contains about 300 inhabitants.

Q. Describe the *Isles of Scilly*.

A. The Isles of Scilly, which are situated about 30 miles to the west of the Land's End, are about 145 in number, the greater part of which are covered with grass and moss, besides a great number of dreary rocks.

Q. Which are the chief of these islands?

A. The chief is that of St. Mary, which contains about 600 inhabitants. This island has a castle and garrison. That of St. Agnes is the next in importance, whose inhabitants are computed to be about 300. The whole of the islands contain about 1,000 inhabitants. Their chief products are horses, sheep, and cattle, but these in general are very small. These isles are very famous for rabbits.

ISLE OF MAN.

Q. Describe the *Isle of Man*.

A. The Isle of Man is a considerable island in the Irish Sea. It is about 30 miles in length, and about 15 in

breadth. It is tolerably fertile, producing plenty of corn and pasture, also black cattle and sheep in abundance. It is divided into 17 parishes, called kirks; and its chief towns are Douglas and Peel.

Q. Was not this island once independent of Great Britain?

A. Yes; this island was formerly an independent sovereignty, and was possessed by the Stanleys, afterwards the earls of Derby, from whom it passed to the family of Athol, by marriage. But this petty sovereignty has since been purchased, and annexed to the English crown.

THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA.

CANADA.

Q. WHAT kind of country is *Canada*?

A. Canada is of very great extent, being 1,500 miles long, and from 200 to 300 broad. It is in general very cold, mountainous, and woody. The winters in Canada are so intense, that the inhabitants, in going out of doors, are subject to being frost-bitten, which is frequently attended with the loss of a limb. The summers are very short, but, in comparison to the winter, they are very hot. Although the climate is extremely severe, and the winters are long and tedious, the soil is in general good, and in many parts fertile.

Q. How is Canada divided?

A. Into two parts, *Upper* and *Lower*. The capital of Upper Canada is Montreal, and that of Lower Canada is Quebec; the latter is the chief town of all Canada.

Q. What are its chief rivers and lakes?

A. These are very numerous, large, and deep. The chief lakes are Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior. The chief river is that of St. Lawrence, which is one of the finest rivers in the world.

Q. By whom was this country first colonized?

A. By the French, from whom it was taken by Genera

Wolfe, in 1759; since which time it has remained in the possession of the English. It contains about 300,000 inhabitants, the greater part of whom still speak the French language, and retain the manners and customs of that nation.

Q. What are the prominent features of this extensive country?

A. Its immense fresh-water lakes, the smallest of which is 150 miles long, and the largest 500; the extraordinary size and length of the river St. Lawrence, which is navigable upwards of 1,000 miles; and the stupendous Fall of Niagara, of which no words can convey an adequate description.

Q. Was not the late war with America carried on principally on these lakes?

A. They were certainly the scenes of several severe contests during the year 1813, between the English and Americans, both of whom equipped considerable fleets on them; but it would be too much to assert that the war was *principally* carried on there.

Q. Describe *Quebec*.

A. Quebec, the capital of Lower Canada, and indeed of all British America, is built on a rocky eminence, near the mouth of the river St. Lawrence, and is divided into the Upper and Lower Towns. The harbour is safe, spacious, and commodious; and though the fortifications are irregular, its situation would enable it to make a good defence. It was here that the brave General Wolfe fell, after he achieved his glorious victory.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Q. What is *Nova Scotia*?

A. Nova Scotia, or New Scotland, is the most eastern part of the continent of America, 300 miles long, and 80 broad, containing the best harbours in the world, and well situated for supporting the commercial interests of Great Britain in this quarter of the globe.

Q. What is the nature of the climate, and the productions of the country?

A. The winters are very severe, and the climate cold and foggy, although the latitude is the same as that of the

middle of France. It produces hemp, flax, timber, pitch, and tar. The population is computed at 100,000.* Halifax, the capital of the province, is a fine sea-port town, strongly fortified.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Q. Where is *New Brunswick*?

A. The province of New Brunswick lies to the south of the gulf of St. Lawrence, and is separated from Nova Scotia, to which it formerly belonged. The climate and productions are very similar to Nova Scotia, and the inhabitants are computed at 60,000. The principal towns are Frederick's and St. John's.

CHAP. XV.

BRITISH ISLANDS IN NORTH AMERICA.

Q. WHICH is the largest of these islands?

A. *Newfoundland*, which is nearly as large as England. The climate is very severe and unpleasant, and the coast is almost constantly enveloped in fogs and snow storms.

Q. What is the chief value of Newfoundland?

A. Its chief value lies in the cod fishery on the coasts, which is the sole object of establishing a colony there. Very little corn or fruit is produced in Newfoundland; the inhabitants being chiefly supplied with these from England, as well as their furniture and clothes. Its chief town and harbour is St. John.

Q. Describe *Cape Breton*.

A. Cape Breton is situate between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and is 100 miles in length. It produces timber in abundance, also coal; and its rivers teem with fish; but the soil is unfavourable to agriculture, and it has scarcely any inhabitants.

Q. Is not the island of *St. John* near?

A. Yes; St. John's is an island situate in the gulf of St. Lawrence, near Cape Breton; and is upwards of 35 miles wide, and more than double that number in length. The coasts are much intersected with bays, and the island contains many fine rivers.

Q. Is St. John's at all similar to the neighbouring isle of Cape Breton?

A. St. John's is much more pleasant than Cape Breton, possessing a finer climate and more fertile soil. The inhabitants amount to about 5,000. Charlestown is its capital.

Q. What are the *Bermudas*?

A. The Bermudas, or Somers' Islands, are a cluster of small islands in the Atlantic Ocean, lying almost in the form of a shepherd's crook, between two and three hundred leagues distant from the nearest place of the continent of America, or any of the West India Islands. The whole number of these islands is about 400, but very few of them are habitable.

Q. Which is the principal one?

A. The island called St. George, with a capital of the same name, which is defended by several forts, mounting 70 pieces of cannon. The other islands of most importance are St. David, Cooper, Ireland, Somerset, Long Island, Bird Island, and Nonsuch.

Q. What have you to observe of the climate of the Bermudas?

A. The climate is very genial; and it may be said to be almost one continual spring there; for the trees never lose their verdure, the leaves only falling when new ones begin to appear, and birds sing and breed without intermission.

Q. From what did these islands obtain the name of Bermudas, or Somers' Islands?

A. They obtained the name of Bermudas from their being first discovered by John Bermudez, a Spaniard, in 1503; and were afterwards called Somers' Islands, from Sir George Somers having been cast away there in 1609. They have likewise obtained the name of *Summer Islands*, from the mildness of the climate.

CHAP. XVI.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

Q. WHICH of the West India Islands belong to Great Britain?

A. The West India Islands belonging to Great Britain are Jamaica, Barbadoes, St. Christopher, Antigua, Barbuda,

Anguilla, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, St. Lucia, Trinidad, the Virgin Isles, and the Bahama Islands.

Q. What is the general nature of the climate of the West India Islands?

A. The heat of the climate in the West Indies is excessive, and would be intolerable, were it not for the refreshing breezes which blow from the sea. Instead of summer and winter, the seasons are divided into rain and dry. During the rainy season the clouds pour down their contents in torrents; and sometimes the tempests and hurricanes are so irresistible as to root up the largest trees, and sweep away the productions of the earth.

Q. Which is the largest of the British West India Islands?

A. *Jamaica*; it is of an oval figure, about 170 miles long by 60 wide; and is divided into three counties, which are named Middlesex, Surrey, and Cornwall. It was first discovered by Columbus, in 1494, and taken from the Spaniards by the English, in 1655.

Q. Describe the climate, face of the country, and productions.

A. With regard to climate, what is before stated as appertaining to the generality of the West India Islands is strictly true in respect to Jamaica. On the coast are numerous plantations, but the interior is mountainous and woody; and there are several rivers. The plantations produce sugar, indigo, tobacco, cotton, pimento, cocoa, coffee, drugs, and many delicious fruits; and the country has a very enchanting appearance.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Kingston, its present capital, and St. Jago de la Vega, the seat of government; also Port Royal, which was the capital formerly, but having been several times destroyed by earthquakes, it is now an inconsiderable place.

Q. What is the population of the island estimated at?

A. Jamaica is supposed to have a population of 40,000 whites, 10,000 people of colour, and 250,000 negroes.

Q. How is Jamaica governed?

A. The government of Jamaica is vested in a governor, a lieutenant-governor, and a house of assembly.

Q. Describe the island of *Barbadoes*.

A. Barbadoes is the most easterly of the Windward Islands, 25 miles long, and 15 broad. The country is in general level, and its productions much the same as those of Jamaica. The capital of this island is Bridgetown, which is a well-built place, with convenient wharfs and quays, a college, and other respectable establishments. It has suffered much from hurricanes.

Q. Where is the island called *St. Christopher's* situate?

A. St. Christopher's, or St. Kitt's, is one of the Leeward Islands, situate about 18 leagues north-west of Antigua. It is nearly 20 miles long, and six broad.

Q. Describe its appearance, &c.

A. In the centre of the island are many high mountains, rocks, precipices, and thick woods. The air is good, and the coasts produce sugar, cotton, and indigo; and the island is watered by several rivulets, which flow from the mountains. Basseterre is the capital.

Q. Describe *Antigua*.

A. Antigua is one of the Leeward Islands, about 20 miles long, and nearly as broad. The productions are much the same as the preceding; but it has no fresh water, the inhabitants being compelled to supply themselves by catching rain water in cisterns. Its capital, St. John's, has an excellent navy yard and arsenal, and is a well-built town.

Q. What have you to observe of *Barbuda*?

A. Barbuda is situate about 20 miles to the north-east of St. Christopher's, and is about 20 miles long by 12 broad. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in raising corn, and breeding sheep, kids, &c. for the neighbouring islands. Citrons, pomegranates, oranges, raisins, pepper, indigo, &c. grow there.

Q. Give a description of *Anguilla*.

A. Anguilla, or Snake Island, though large, is but of little importance. It is the most northerly of the English Caribbee Islands, and is a woody level tract of country, about 30 miles in length by 10 in breadth.

Q. What may be observed of the island of *Dominica*?

A. The island of Dominica, 29 miles long, and 15 broad, lies about half way between Guadaloupe and Martinico, producing cotton, coffee, indigo, and other articles of

West India produce. The island is well supplied with rivulets of water; and in the woods are innumerable swarms of bees, producing great quantities of wax and honey. Charlotte Town is the capital.

Q. Give some account of the island of *St. Vincent*.

A. *St. Vincent* is one of the Caribbee Islands in possession of the English, but the natives are a fierce race of men, whose frequent insurrections give great trouble to the colonists. The bread-fruit tree, sugar canes, indigo, &c. are produced here. Kingston is its capital.

Q. Describe *Granada*.

A. *Granada*, or *Grenada*, is the last of the Windward Caribbee Islands, about 24 miles long by 12 broad. The island is finely wooded, and a chain of mountains crosses it from north to south, in the centre of which is a large lake. Indigo, sugar, cocoa, coffee, cotton, and tobacco, are its productions. The principal town is *St. George*.

Q. Proceed with a description of *Tobago*.

A. *Tobago*, which is the most south ward of the Caribbee Islands, is about 32 miles in length, and 10 in breadth. It is agreeably diversified with hill and dale, is very fertile, and not subject to those dreadful hurricanes which often desolate the neighbouring islands. Scarborough is the name of the chief town.

Q. What animals are found in *Tobago*?

A. Wild hogs, peccaros, armadilloes, Indian rabbits, sheep, deer, goats, &c.; and the coasts are stored with excellent turtle and various delicious fish.

Q. Describe *St. Lucia*.

A. The isle of *St. Lucia* is about 25 miles long, and 14 broad. In it are two remarkably high mountains, which may be seen for a very considerable distance at sea. It is a healthy spot, well wooded, watered with numerous rivulets, and is provided with several good bays and harbours.

Q. Give a description of *Trinidad*.

A. *Trinidad* is a large island, situate near the coast of Cumana, being between 70 and 80 miles long, and of various breadths. The soil is fruitful, producing sugar, cotton, Indian corn, fine tobacco, cassava, and other roots. There is a great natural curiosity in this island, which is the lake

Brea, or lake of pitch, covering a space of 150 acres, and producing such an abundance of that commodity, as, it is said, would serve for the use of the whole British navy. St. Joseph is the chief town.

Q. What are the *Virgin Islands*?

A. The Virgin Islands consist of about 30 small islands, most of them desert and barren, the greater part of which belong to the English, and the remainder to the Danes. The principal of these is called Tortola, which produces excellent cotton, sugar, and rum. These islands are situated to the east of Porto Rico, and extend about 20 leagues in length, and 12 in breadth.

Q. Describe the *Bahama or Lucaya Islands*.

A. The Bahama or Lucaya Islands are chiefly a range of rocks, extending along the coast of Florida, to the isle of Cuba; and though there are nearly 500 of them, only 12 are habitable. The principal of these, in point of size, are Bahama and Lucaya, giving name to all the rest; but the most valuable of them is the island of Providence.

CHAP. XVII.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN INDIA.

Q. WHAT portion of India is under the dominion of Great Britain?

A. A very large portion of India, or Hindostan, containing a population of forty millions, is under the dominion of Great Britain; and numerous states governed by the native princes pay a tribute to the British government for their possessions.

Q. Name the Indian provinces, &c. belonging to Great Britain.

A. They consist of Bengal, Bahar, Benares, Allahabad, Orissa, Delhi, Agra, Madras, Negapatam, Bombay, Serinapatam, various portions of the Mahratta territories, &c.

Q. Describe the climate and general appearance of India.

A. From its vast extent, India includes a great variety of climate; but on the whole it may be said to be free from cold weather, excessive heats and excessive rains forming the chief difference of the seasons. Generally

speaking, the face of the country is level, and the soil so fruitful, that there are two harvests every year.

Q. What are the vegetable productions of India?

A. Its vegetable productions consist of an abundant supply of the most delicious fruits, corn, and fine timber of various kinds; but the most remarkable tree is that called the cotton tree, which rises to the height of 50 feet without a branch; its boughs then expand to a considerable distance, and are adorned, in the rainy season, with large purple flowers.

Q. Are not the mineral productions of India very valuable?

A. Yes; the mines of India contain diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and other precious stones, and also gold; but silver is not found in any of them.

Q. What animals inhabit this part of the globe?

A. Besides horses, cattle, and domestic animals, there are elephants, camels, zebras, lions, rhinoceroses, tigers, bears, wolves, and many other wild beasts. Birds, reptiles, and insects, of almost all kinds, are to be met with in this extensive region.

Q. What is the character of the natives?

A. The Hindoos, who are the original inhabitants of this large country, are generally placid and gentle in their manners, abstemious, charitable, and devout, but superstitious in a high degree. They consider marriage a sacred duty, and the women suppose it to be meritorious to burn themselves upon the funeral pile with the dead body of their husband.

Q. Are not the Hindoos divided into four distinct castes or tribes?

A. Yes; and these four tribes never intermarry with each other, nor have the least intercourse whatsoever. The Bramins are the highest caste, whose office is to attend to the religious ceremonies; the others are soldiers, labourers, and mechanics. There is also another race, called Parias, who are in the most abject state of wretchedness, and fill the meanest situations.

Q. Describe the persons of the Hindoos.

A. The Hindoos are straight and well made, their hair black, their complexion black, and their countenance pleasing. They live principally upon rice, vegetables, and milk.

Q. We will now proceed to notice briefly the British possessions in India, beginning with *Bengal*.

A. The principal towns in the province of Bengal are Calcutta, Moorshedabad, and Dacca; of which Calcutta is the chief, and the capital of British India.

Q. Give a description of Calcutta.

A. Calcutta is situated on the river Ganges; and is a fine, populous, and extensive city, the residence of the governor-general, and the emporium of commerce. It contains about 500,000 inhabitants.

Q. What may be observed of Moorshedabad and Dacca?

A. Moorshedabad is also situated on the Ganges, higher up, and was at one time the capital of Bengal. Dacca stands on the other side of the same river, and is celebrated for its manufacture of muslins.

Q. Which is the chief town in the province of *Bahar*?

A. Patua is the capital of Bahar, and is a place of considerable trade.

Q. Where is *Benares*?

A. Benares is a fine and populous city, the capital of a district of the same name, and is built on the north side of the Ganges, which is here very broad. In this city is a Hindoo university, and several of their temples and other magnificent buildings.

Q. What have you to remark of *Allahabad*?

A. Allahabad is the capital of a province bearing the same name, and is seated at the confluence of the Ganges and Jumna: both these rivers being held sacred by the Hindoos, the city was called Allahadab, which signifies *The City of God*.

Q. For what is *Agra* noted?

A. Agra is noted for its chief city, which was formerly the capital of India, and at this time contains many magnificent ruins of its ancient grandeur. Here the Great Mogul sometimes resided, and in it were, besides his palaces, 60 caravanseras, 800 baths, 700 mosques, and two noble mausoleums.

Q. For what is *Delhi* remarkable?

A. Delhi, which is the capital of the extensive province of that name, is the residence of the Great Mogul, though his power is now completely abridged by the British. It

was a large, rich, and populous city, before the invasion of Nadir Shah, in 1739, when two hundred thousand inhabitants perished by the sword, and treasure to the amount of sixty millions sterling was carried away.

Q. What is *Seringapatam*?

A. Seringapatam is an island, and the capital of the Mysore country; it contains many elegant buildings, squares, groves, and gardens, and is strongly fortified. The mausoleum of Hyder Ali, and the palace of Tippoo Sultan, which is surrounded by a grove of cypress trees, are among the most interesting objects.

Q. When was Seringapatam taken by the English?

A. It was taken in 1799, by assault, by the troops under General Baird, the Sultan Tippoo being killed while gallantly defending it.

Q. What is *Bombay*?

A. Bombay is an island on the western coast of Hindostan, and one of the presidencies of the East India Company, by which their Oriental territories are guarded. The climate of Bombay is unhealthy, and the soil barren; but it is conveniently situated for trade.

Q. What is *Madras*?

A. Madras is the capital of the presidency of that name, situate on the coast of Coromandel. It is divided into two towns, called the *white* and the *black* town, from the complexion of the inhabitants. Madras is the principal settlement of the English, on the eastern side of the peninsula. In the centre of the white town stands Fort St. George, a very strong fortress, and the buildings which surround it are extremely handsome.

Q. Does not the island of *Ceylon* belong to the British?

A. Yes; Ceylon is a large and mountainous, though fruitful island in the Indian Ocean, 250 miles long, and 150 broad. The productions of this island are cinnamon, pepper, corn, rice, and fruits of various kinds; but the most remarkable production is the tallipot tree, one of whose leaves will cover ten men, and afford them shelter from the rain.

Q. What animals and minerals are found in Ceylon?

A. Among the animals are elephants, buffaloes, tigers, jackalls, monkeys, deer, hogs, and goats; and the mines afford rubies, sapphires, and topazes.

CHAP. XVIII.

FOREIGN DOMINIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN
IN AFRICA.

Q. WHAT are the possessions of Great Britain in Africa?

A. The settlement of Sierra Leone, the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius, and St. Helena.

Q. What are our possessions at *Sierra Leone*?

A. The British possessions extend for some distance along the banks of the river of Sierra Leone, which waters a large and fruitful country on the western coast of Africa. This tract of land was purchased of the natives, and the settlement formed for the humane purpose of promoting civilization and the Christian religion in Africa.

Q. Where is the *Cape of Good Hope*?

A. The Cape of Good Hope is the most southerly point of the continent of Africa; and was formerly a Dutch settlement, but became permanently a British colony in 1806, since which time great numbers have emigrated thither from Great Britain and Ireland.

Q. What is the nature of the climate, and what are its productions?

A. The climate is reckoned healthy; and the soil produces wheat and other corn, and fruits in abundance. Cape Town is situated 30 miles to the north of the cape, and contains about 1,200 houses. At the back of Cape Town rises the Table Mountain, which is 3,582 feet above the level of the sea.

Q. Who are natives of this part of Africa?

A. The Hottentots and Caffres; the former of whom are mild, timid, honest, and hospitable, but the Caffres are more robust and warlike. Hunting is the favourite amusement of both.

Q. What is the *Mauritius*?

A. Mauritius, or the Isle of France, is an island in the Indian Ocean, about 150 miles in circumference. It was originally taken by the Dutch, afterwards by the French, and from them, in 1810, by the British. It lies at some distance to the east of Madagascar, and is used as a place of call on the voyage to and from India.

Q. What does it produce?

A. In the Isle of France are numerous groves of oranges and citrons, and the pine-apple grows in great luxuriance; and its ebony is the most solid and shining of any in the world. There is also abundance of cattle, venison, and wild fowl. The island is well fortified, and carries on a considerable trade.

Q. Where is the island of *St. Helena*?

A. *St. Helena* is situate in the South Atlantic Ocean; and is about 20 miles in circumference, appearing like a huge rock rising out of the water. The nearest continent to it is that of Africa, from which it is distant 1,200 miles. It produces corn, vegetables, and fruit; and, being well watered with rivulets, feeds plenty of cattle.

Q. What has rendered this island of so much importance of late?

A. The island of *St. Helena* has been rendered of importance, as being the spot fixed on by the Allied Sovereigns, in 1815, for the residence of Napoleon Buonaparte. Its distance from either continent, and the inaccessible nature of *St. Helena*, seemed to combine advantages for such a purpose as which other place afforded.

CHAP. XIX.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

Q. WHAT is meant by *Australia*?

A. *Australia* is the name given by modern geographers to denote those countries and islands which lie in the Pacific Ocean, between Asia and America; and is divided into two parts, *Australasia* and *Polynesia*.

Q. What are the British possessions in this portion of the globe?

A. The principal are *New Holland*, *Norfolk Island*, and *Van Dieman's Land*.

Q. What kind of country is *New Holland*?

A. *New Holland*, from its size, rather deserves the name of a continent than an island, being 2,500 miles in length, and 2,000 in breadth. The interior of *New Holland* is but little known; but the coasts are exceedingly

rich and fertile. Some of the trees grow to an enormous size, the pine in particular, being frequently 600 feet high.

Q. Describe the natives.

A. The natives of New Holland are some of the lowest in the scale of creation. They are of a chocolate colour, and ill made; and their habitations are either hollows in the rocks, or huts of bark, which afford but little shelter from the inclemency of the weather.

Q. When was New Holland first discovered?

A. It was first discovered by the Dutch in the 17th century, and the eastern part was explored by Captain Cook in 1770, who named it New South Wales. To this place the English convicts were afterwards transported, a settlement being formed for receiving them at Botany Bay, and since then another at Port Jackson.

Q. What towns have the settlers built?

A. Four towns have been built on the coast; namely, Sydney, Paramatta, Hawkesbury, and Newcastle, which are inhabited not only by those convicts whose time is expired, but by their descendants, and many new settlers.

Q. Which is the principal town?

A. Sydney is the principal town; the others being still in their infancy, though gradually increasing in size and population.

Q. What is *Van Dieman's Land*?

A. Van Dieman's Land is an island separated from the south part of New Holland, which in productions and general appearance it greatly resembles. It is 160 miles long, and 80 broad.

Q. Where is *Norfolk Island* situated?

A. Norfolk Island is situated to the east of New South Wales. It is almost covered with forests of pine trees, and the soil is deep and rich.

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