

### PART III.

#### THE COAST OF MEXICO AND ADJACENT ISLANDS FROM THE MOUTH OF THE COLORADO RIVER TO CAPE CORRIENTES.

The coast of Mexico from the mouth of the Colorado River to Cape Corrientes, bordering partly on the Gulf of California and partly on the Pacific Ocean, is for the most part low and sandy, although there are many places where the mountains approach it closely. In the distant interior may be seen the summits of the Sierra Madre and of the high mountain ranges branching off from it. General description.

The Mexican provinces bordering on this coast are, commencing at the Colorado River, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Jalisco, having together a population of 1,255,000. The climate is temperate and the interior of the country is fertile, but the principal sources of wealth are the mines of gold and silver that are found almost everywhere.

There are many places along the coast where vessels may anchor, and several important ports, among which are Guaymas, Mazatlan, and San Blas.

The depth of water off this coast is in general much less than that off the western coast of the Gulf of California.

The islands off the coast are generally barren and uninhabited. Tiburon Island, in the upper part of the gulf, is inhabited by the Seris tribe of Indians.

For a description of the winds and weather of the Gulf of California, see pages 53-54. The same remarks apply to the Mexican coast as far south as Cape Corrientes. Winds and weather.

The information regarding the currents along this coast is rather meagre, and the statements somewhat contradictory. They probably depend almost entirely on the winds, southerly currents predominating. Currents.

Between Guaymas and Cape Corrientes, during the rainy season (from May to November), they are strong and irregular. Northerly currents are frequently encountered at that season. Tide rips are often seen along the edge of the shoals that lie off this part of the coast.