

on the Niger. The king is so far despotic, that he can call upon any of his subjects to take arms at pleasure; but he cannot employ them generally, nor dispose of them as slaves, which is only the condition of criminals, and such as are bought from other countries. The population consists of Negroes intermixed with a few Moors. All religions are tolerated; but the Negroes seem to have neither priests nor forms of public worship; though they are extremely superstitious, and wear numerous fetishes to avert the casualties of life. The inhabitants, who are much attached to their native country, and possess great ease and suavity of manners, are a stout healthy race; but dirty, though very fond of ornaments, wearing brass rings on their fingers and in their ears; and dancing is their favorite amusement. They measure time by days, weeks, and lunar months; yet few of them can tell their own age. Slaves form the most prominent article in the commerce of the capital, and are often bartered for very trifling articles. They are originally obtained by parties, who go out about once a month from the city into the surrounding country to capture them.

CAPE DE VERDE ISLANDS.

THE population of this group consists chiefly of descendants of the early Portuguese settlers and Negroes. They are subject to the crown of Portugal; and the religion,

though called Roman Catholicism, is much mixed with pagan superstitions. Most of the inhabitants are poor, yet hospitable; and their mode of living is very temperate. The Portuguese have a great number of Negro slaves, who receive the same treatment as the free people. Their chief food is Indian corn and mangoes; so that they are not much expense to their masters. They are chiefly engaged at the loom, and in attending the youth; but many are without employment.

In *St. Jago*, the largest of the islands, the cultivation of madder engages the attention of the people.

The population of *Mayo*, another of these islands, are all Negroes, not excepting the governor and priests; but they speak the Portuguese language. The Negro governor expects a small present from every ship that loads here; and is mightily pleased, if invited on board. The people are generally engaged in making salt from sea water.

CANARY ISLANDS.

THE Guanches were the original inhabitants of this group, and had made much greater progress in civilization, than most other Africans. They long resisted the efforts of the Spaniards to conquer them; but at length their enemies, adding to the sword the dreadful power of the Inquisition, totally extirpated them. The present population are de-

scendants of Spaniards, with an intermixture of Normans : and though both have, for the last three centuries, been exposed to the same climate, the latter are still distinguished by their light complexion. The modern Canarians are moral, sober, and religious ; yet less industrious at home than in foreign countries.

MADEIRA ISLANDS.

THIS group is subject to the Portuguese ; and most of the population are descendants of the early Portuguese settlers. Their meagre figures, gloomy countenances, long black hair, and coarse dress, give them an appearance altogether opposed to the courtesy and politeness of their demeanor. The peasants, a vigorous athletic race, exhibit a rude state of society, the severest labor being assigned to females. Slavery is, however, prohibited. The chief dependence of numerous families is upon the forests of chestnut-trees, which cover the mountains ; while those who dwell in the capital are mostly fed by the liberality of British merchants. Asking of alms is not here connected with any idea of abasement ; and beggars put on their best clothes when they solicit charity.

AZORES.

LEAVING Madeira, with which we close our observations on Africa, we take a north-westerly course through the Atlantic Ocean ; and, in our passage towards Greenland, we meet with the group called Azores, or Western Islands, from whence come the delicious St. Michael's oranges. These islands, which are sometimes reckoned to Africa, sometimes to Europe, are equidistant from both. The population consists of Portuguese settlers and their descendants, who lead an indolent life, in a beautiful country, under a serene sky, with a salubrious air. But those islands conceal subterranean fires and incipient volcanoes, which occasionally burst forth with tremendous earthquakes, fountains of smoke and fire, showers of hot sulphureous ashes, deluges of burning lava ; and such of the wretched inhabitants as escape with their lives are reduced to misery and despair !

POLYNESIA.

IN the expanse of the Pacific Ocean, a multitude of islands is scattered about, generally very small, and for the most part in groups. They have been recently discovered, and as they belong to neither of the ancient divisions of the earth, the general term *Polynesia* or *Many Islands*, has

been employed to designate them. A few shades of difference are observable among the inhabitants, but still, in their leading characteristics, they bear a strong resemblance to each other.

In *Easter Island*, is a race of slender well-made savages, of a tawny complexion, with pleasing oval countenances, and agreeable manners; intelligent and quick in their observations, hospitable to strangers, but most audacious thieves. The common houses are miserable huts, to each of which a subterranean storehouse is attached. They have some places of public assembly, fifty or sixty feet long, and ten or twelve broad, shaped like an inverted canoe, with several openings on one side. As the scarcity of wood prevents their building many canoes, they make rafts of sugar cane matting, covered with rushes, to support themselves in the water. Certain colossal busts, carved out of a red porous stone, mark their places of sepulture, and give a peculiar character to the island.

PITCAIRN'S ISLAND is peopled by the descendants of some English mutineers and natives of Tahitè, whom they brought with them. The men are tall and well formed; and their hair is long and lank. They wear straw hats, with a few feathers by way of ornament; and on their shoulders they have a mantle, reaching to the knees, and bound about the waist with a girdle; both made of the

bark of the paper mulberry-tree. The females are lovely and modest.

The GEORGIAN ISLANDS were so called in honor of the late King of England, George III. Of this group, the chief is TAHEITE, or *O'taheite*, as it has been improperly called. Most of these islanders are above the middle size: the chiefs, in particular, are a large race, few of them being less than six feet high, and well made. The women, too, are tall, especially those of superior rank; but some of the lower classes are short. Their natural complexion is that of an European brunette; and their hair is black and coarse. Both sexes dress nearly alike; a piece of printed calico, with a hole in it to admit the head, hangs down before and behind, but is open at the sides, leaving the arms at full liberty. A square piece of cloth is folded round the waist of the men, and above the bosom of the females: this is confined by a girdle, and hangs down as low as the knees of the former, but to the ankles of the latter. Besides this, the women often throw a square piece of fine white cloth over the whole, by way of cloak. Their legs and feet are bare; but their heads and faces are shaded by large bonnets of matting or cocoa-nut leaves. They are fond of beads, ear-rings, and other ornaments. The clothes they wear in the day, cover them at night: and the floor is the common bed of the whole household. The houses are mere sheds; but since the settlement of the British mission-

aries here, a superior mode of building has been introduced among the chiefs, and it is gradually making its way among the lower orders. The government is an hereditary monarchy, which, in 1819, was modelled by the missionaries after the English constitution; and a code of laws was then for the first time given to the people.

These islands are frequently denominated the *Windward Isles*, in contradistinction to the *LEEWARD, or SOCIETY ISLES*, a group at a little distance to the north-west; the inhabitants of which are of the same race, and have similar manners and customs.

In both these groups, society now presents an aspect very different from that which it exhibited at their first discovery in 1767, and for some years afterwards. Through the persevering labours of the missionaries sent from England in 1797, idolatry, with many of its superstitious customs and baneful consequences, has been entirely subverted in Tahaitè and eight of the other islands. Infanticide has been abolished; and the sacrificing of prisoners of war, renounced; the suppression of many pernicious amusements has been effected; and a professed reception of Christianity avowed. Political and social institutions have also been established; printing presses have been set up, from which portions of the Holy Scriptures in the native dialect of the islanders, with books necessary for carrying on the work of

instruction, have issued: and a public library has been instituted at Tahaitè, for the benefit of the Georgian islands.

North-east of these islands lie the *MARQUESAS*, a group inhabited by a race, which all navigators agree in representing as remarkable for their stature, the beautiful proportions of their bodies, and the singular regularity of their features. They scarcely wear any clothing; and their whole bodies are tattooed: many of the men allow their beards to grow to the full length; others cut or shave them in part, and form them into locks, from which they suspend shark's teeth, and a variety of things which they consider ornamental. Sometimes they wear fantastical head-dresses, composed of the rind of cocoa-nut shells, or any articles that fancy may dictate. Their houses, built in valleys, or on the sides of hills, are better constructed than those of Tahaitè, though upon a similar plan, and are covered with leaves of the bread-fruit tree. No form of government appears to be established among these islanders; and their religious ceremonies are extremely superstitious.

North-east of the Marquesas, are *INGRAHAM'S GROUP, or WASHINGTON'S ISLANDS*, the inhabitants of which are described as the handsomest race in the South Seas. Their complexions, naturally, are not darker than those of Europeans, though rendered almost black by general tattooing. A piece of cloth, wrapped carelessly about the loins, constitutes the only clothing of these people, yet they are fond of ornaments, particularly head-dresses. The houses of

these islanders, which are long and narrow, are composed of a few posts and bamboos entwined with leaves of the cocoa tree and fern. The sloping roof is covered with dried leaves of the bread-fruit tree; and the interior is divided into two compartments by a beam laid across the floor. The front division is paved; but the farther part is covered with mats, upon which the whole family sleep promiscuously. Their food and cookery are very simple; for, besides pork, their principal dish is a kind of sour dough, made of taro-root and bread-fruit, with yams. Fish, which also forms part of their diet, they catch by diving to the bottom of the sea, and spreading it with bruised leaves of a plant that grows among the rocks: these produce intoxication in the fishes, in which state they rise to the surface and are easily taken.

Westward of the Georgian Group, are the FRIENDLY ISLANDS, so called by Captain Cook from the kind disposition manifested by the natives towards himself and his crew. The people are not remarkably tall, though many exceed six feet in height; and they are all strong, healthy, and well made. Their features are various, and many good European faces are met with among them. The usual complexion is rather darker than the copper colour; some are of a true olive; and many of the women much fairer. The dress generally consists of a piece of cloth, or a mat, wrapped round the waist, and confined by a girdle. Such

as can procure cocoa-nut oil, rub themselves all over with it; and the females endeavor to enhance their beauty by covering themselves with a fine powder. The first Europeans who visited these islands, described the inhabitants as possessing many amiable qualities; but subsequent experience has partly dispelled this illusion, and they now appear ferocious and sanguinary.

A few degrees north of this cluster, are the NAVIGATORS' ISLANDS, the inhabitants of which nearly equal the Patagonians in stature. Their bodies are so painted, or tattooed, that at a distance they seem clothed; yet they are quite naked, except that a girdle of sea-weed encircles their loins. Their countenances are fierce; and their long hair turned up all round, adds to their ferocious aspect. All the villages in these islands are built on the sea shore, or on the banks of streams that fall into the ocean; and as the inhabitants always pass from one to another in canoes, they obtained the title of *Navigators* from the first Europeans who visited them.

The last group we shall visit is that of the SANDWICH ISLANDS, where our great circumnavigator, Captain Cook, was unhappily killed, by the sudden frenzy of the natives, in 1779. They lie at a considerable distance north of the Georgian islands, and on the other side of the equator. *Owhyhee*, or more properly *Hawaii*, where the catastrophe alluded to happened, is the largest of them. The natives

are in general above the middle size, and well made; they walk gracefully, run nimbly, and are capable of bearing great fatigue. In disposition, these people are mild and affectionate, equally distinct from the levity and fickleness of the Tahaitans as from the gravity and reserve of the Friendly Islanders. Mothers shew a remarkable degree of tenderness for their children, and pay the greatest attention to their wants. Both sexes display great ingenuity, and are dexterous imitators of such arts of civil life as they observe among their European and Anglo-American visiters. Hence civilization has made more progress here than in any other part of Polynesia; Christianity has been received as the national religion; and it is but reasonable to conclude that, a century hence, the Hawaiians will be to the islands of the Pacific Ocean and the contiguous coasts, what the English have long been to the world at large.





