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Chief Towns.] HALIFAX is the capital of Nova-Scotia, and stands on Chebucto Bay. It has a good harbour, sufficiently large and safe to shelter a Squadron of ships through the winter. ANNAPOLIS stands on the east side of the Bay of Fundy, and has one of the finest harbours in the world. ST. JOHN'S is a new settlement at the mouth of the river of the same name. Since the conclusion of the war, there have been large emigrations of the refugees from the United States to this province. They have built several new towns, the largest of which is SHELBURNE, which once contained 9000 inhabitants, but has lately decreased.

History and Government.] Notwithstanding the forbidding aspect of this country, it was here that some of the first European settlements were made. The first grant of land in it, was made by James I. to his secretary William Alexander, who named it Nova-Scotia, or New-Scotland.—Since that time it has frequently changed from one private proprietor to another, and repeatedly from the French to the English. At the peace of Utrecht it was confirmed to the English, under whose government it has ever since continued.

SPANISH AMERICA.

EAST AND WEST-FLORIDA.

miles.
 Length 600 } between { 25° and 31° North Latitude.
 Breadth 130 } 5° and 17° W. Long. from Phila.

BOUNDED north, by Georgia ; east, by the Atlantick ocean ; south, by the Gulph of Mexico ; West, by the Mississippi ; lying in the form of an L.

Rivers.] St. John's and Indian rivers, which empty into the Atlantick ocean ; Seguana, Apalachicola, Chatahatchi, Escambia, Mobile, Pascagoula and Pearl rivers, all of which rise in Georgia, and run southerly into the Gulf of Mexico.

Climate.] Very little different from that of Georgia.

Soil and Productions.] There are, in this country, a great variety of soils. The eastern part of it, near and about St. Augustine, is far the most unfruitful; yet even here two crops of Indian corn a year are produced. The banks of the rivers which water the Floridas, and the parts contiguous, are of a superior quality, and well adapted to the culture of rice and corn, while the more interior country, which is high and pleasant, abounds with wood of almost every kind; particularly white and red oak, pine, hickory, cypress, red and white cedar. The intervals between the hilly part of this country are extremely rich, and produce spontaneously the fruits and vegetables that are common to Georgia and the Carolinas. But this country is rendered valuable in a peculiar manner, by the extensive ranges for cattle.

Chief Towns.] ST. AUGUSTINE, the capital of East-Florida, is situated on the sea coast—is of an oblong figure, and intersected by four streets, which cut each other at right angles.

The principal town in West-Florida is PENSACOLA. It lies along the beach, and, like St. Augustine, is of an oblong form.—The water-approach to the town, except for small vessels, is obstructed by a low and sandy shore. The bay, however, on which the town stands, forms a very commodious harbour, and vessels may ride here secure from every wind.

History.] The Floridas have experienced the vicissitudes of war, and frequently changed masters, belonging alternately to the French and Spaniards. It was ceded by the latter to the English at the peace of 1763. During the last war, they were again reduced by the arms of his Catholick Majesty, and guarantied to the crown of Spain by the late definitive treaty. Its first discoverer was Sebastian Cabot, in 1497.

LOUISIANA.

BOUNDED by the Mississippi east; by the Gulf of Mexico south; by New-Mexico west; and runs indefinitely north.

Rivers.]

Rivers.] It is intersected by a number of fine rivers, among which are the Natchitoches, which empty into the Mississippi above Point Coupee, and the Adayes or Mexicano river, emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

Capital.] NEW-ORLEANS. It stands on the east side of the Mississippi, 105 miles from its mouth, in lat. $30^{\circ} 2'$ north. In the beginning of the last year it contained about 1100 houses, seven eighths of which were consumed by fire, in the space of five hours, on the 19th of March, 1788. It is now fast rebuilding. Its advantages for trade are very great. Situated on a noble river, in a fertile and healthy country, within a week's sail of Mexico by sea, and as near to the British, French and Spanish West-India islands, with a moral certainty of its becoming the general receptacle for the produce of that extensive and valuable country on the Mississippi and Ohio, are sufficient to ensure its future growth and commercial importance.

Religion, &c.] The greater part of the white inhabitants are Roman Catholics. They are governed by a viceroy from Spain, and their number is unknown.

Climate, Soil and Produce.] Louisiana is agreeably situated between the extremes of heat and cold. Its climate varies as it extends towards the north. The southern parts, lying within the reach of the refreshing breezes from the sea, are not scorched like those under the same latitudes in Africa; and its northern regions are colder than those of Europe under the same parallels, with a wholesome, serene air. To judge of the produce to be expected from the soil of Louisiana, let us turn our eyes to Egypt, Arabia Felix, Persia, India, China and Japan, all lying in corresponding latitudes. Of these China alone has a tolerable government; and yet it must be acknowledged they all are, or have been, famous for their riches and fertility. From the favourableness of the climate, two annual crops of Indian corn may be produced; and the soil, with little cultivation, would furnish grain of every kind in the greatest abundance. Their timber is as fine as any in the world, and the quantities of live oak, ash,

ash, mulberry, walnut, cherry, cypress and cedar, are astonishing. The neighbourhood of the Mississippi, besides, furnishes the richest fruits in great variety; the soil is particularly adapted for hemp, flax and tobacco; and indigo is at this time a staple commodity, which commonly yields the planter three or four cuttings a year. In a word, whatever is rich and rare in the most desirable climates in Europe, seems to be the spontaneous production of this delightful country.

History.] The Mississippi, on which the fine country of Louisiana is situated, was first discovered by Ferdinand de Soto, in 1541. Monsieur de la Salle was the first who traversed it. He, in the year 1682, having passed down to the mouth of the Mississippi, and surveyed the adjacent country, returned to Canada, from whence he took passage to France.

From the flattering accounts which he gave of the country, and the consequential advantages that would accrue from settling a colony in those parts, Louis XIV. was induced to establish a company for the purpose. Accordingly a squadron of four vessels, amply provided with men and provisions, under the command of Monsieur de la Salle, embarked, with an intention to settle near the mouths of the Mississippi. But he unintentionally sailed 100 leagues to the westward of it, where he attempted to establish a colony; but through the unfavourableness of the climate, most of his men miserably perished, and he himself was villanously murdered, not long after, by two of his own men. Monsieur Iberville succeeded him in his laudable attempts. He, after two successful voyages, died while preparing for a third. Crozat succeeded him; and in 1712, the King gave him Louisiana. This grant continued but a short time after the death of Louis XIV. In 1763 Louisiana was ceded to the King of Spain, to whom it now belongs.

Mines.] The chief mines of gold are in Veragua and New-Grenada, bordering upon Darien and Terra Firma. Those of silver, which are much more rich, as well as numerous, are found in several parts, particularly in the province of Mexico.

The mines of both kinds are always found in the most barren and mountainous parts of the country ; nature making amends in one respect for defects in another.

Of the gold and silver which the mines of Mexico afford, great things have been said. Those who have inquired most into this subject compute the revenues at twenty-four millions of money ; and this account is probably just, since it is well known that this, with the other Spanish provinces in South-America, supply the whole world with silver.

The Spanish commerce in the article of cocoa is immense. It grows on a tree of a middling size, which bears a pod about the size of a cucumber, containing the cocoa. It is said that a small garden of cocoas produces to the owner twenty thousand crowns a year.

Inhabitants, Character and Government.] The present inhabitants of Mexico may be divided into whites, Indians and negroes. The whites are born in Old-Spain, or they are Creoles, that is, natives of Spanish America. The former are chiefly employed in government and trade, and have nearly the same character with the Spaniards in Europe ; only a larger share of pride ; for they consider themselves as entitled to every high distinction as natives of Europe, and look on the other inhabitants as many degrees beneath them.

The Indians, who, notwithstanding the devastations of the first invaders, remain in great numbers, are become, by continual oppression and indignity, a dejected, timorous, and miserable race of mortals.

The blacks here, like those in other parts of the world, are stubborn, robust and hardy, and as well adapted for the gross and inhuman slavery they endure, as any human beings. This may serve for the general character, not only of the Mexicans, but for the greater part of the Spanish colonies in South-America.

The

The civil government of Mexico is administered by tribunals, called audiences. In these courts the Viceroy of the King of Spain presides. His employment is the greatest trust and power his Catholick Majesty has at his disposal, and is perhaps the richest government entrusted to any subject in the world. The Viceroy continues in office but three years.

The clergy are extremely numerous in Mexico. The priests, monks and nuns of all orders, make a fifth part of the white inhabitants, both here and in other parts of Spanish America.

Chief Towns.] MEXICO, the capital of this place, is situated on a large plain, environed by mountains of such height, that, though within the torrid zone, the temperature of its climate is mild and healthful.

All the buildings are convenient ; and the publick edifices, especially the churches, are magnificent.—The revenue of the grand cathedral amounts to near £.80,000 sterling a year, of which the archbishop has £.15,000, besides vast sums arising from perquisites. The inhabitants are reckoned at 150,000, who draw annually from the mines above ten millions of money, exclusive of the vast sums secreted, and applied to private uses ; yet with these almost incredible treasures, the people may be reckoned poor, as most of them live beyond their fortunes, and commonly terminate a life of profusion in extreme indigence.

ACAPULCO stands on a bay of the South-Sea, about 210 miles southeast of Mexico. In this harbour, which is very commodious, the Manilla galleon takes in at least ten millions of dollars, in return for the goods she brings thither, and for the payment of the Spanish garrisons in the Phillippine isles.

History.] The empire of Mexico was subdued by Cortes, in the year 1521. Montezuma was at that time Emperor of Mexico. In the course of the war, he was treacherously taken by Cortes, and held as a prisoner. During the imprisonment of Montezuma, Cortes and his army had made repeated attacks on his subjects, but without success. Cortes was now deter-
mined,

mined, as his last resource, to try what effect the interposition of Montezuma might have to soothe or overawe his subjects. This unfortunate Prince, at the mercy of the treacherous Spaniards, and reduced to the sad necessity of becoming the instrument of his own disgrace, and of the slavery of his subjects, advanced to the battlements in his royal robes, with all the pomp in which he used to appear on solemn occasions. At sight of their sovereign, whom they had long been accustomed to honour, and almost to revere as a god, the weapons dropped from their hands, every tongue was silent, all bowed their heads, and many prostrated themselves on the ground. Montezuma addressed them with every argument that could mitigate their rage, or persuade them to cease from hostilities. When he ended his discourse, a sullen murmur of disapprobation ran through the croud; to this succeeded reproaches and threats; and their fury rising in a moment, they violently poured in whole flights of arrows, and volleys of stones, upon their unhappy monarch; two of the arrows struck him in the body, which, with the blow of a stone on his temple, put an end to his life. Guatimozin succeeded Montezuma, and maintained a vigorous opposition against the assaults of Cortes. But he, like his predecessor, after a noble defence, was forced to submit. Previous to this, being aware of his impending fate, he had ordered that all his treasures should be thrown into the lake. While a prisoner, on suspicion of his having concealed his treasure, he was put to the torture, which was done by laying him on burning coals; but he bore whatever the refined cruelty of his tormentors could inflict, with the invincible fortitude of an American warrior. One of his chief favourites, his fellow sufferer, being overcome by the violence of the anguish, turned a dejected eye towards his master, which seemed to implore his permission to reveal all that he knew. But the high spirited prince darted on him a look of authority, mingled with scorn, and checked his weakness by asking, "Am I now reposing on a bed of flowers?" Overawed by the reproach, he persevered in dutiful silence,