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Autor: Morse, Jedidiah

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Contact

Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen
Germany
Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de

extent of 3600 miles from north to south, and 2000 from east to west. The air of this country is generally excessively hot, and the soil barren, though on the banks of the rivers it is fertile, and produces rice, citrons, lemons, sugar-canes, &c. The Ethiopians are an ignorant, uncivilized, superstitious people. Their government is absolute, lodged in the hands of a great number of Princes, the small ones are tributary to the greater. The Mahometan and Pagan religions prevail in Ethiopia.

AFRICAN ISLANDS.

AT the mouth of the Red sea, is the island that sailors now call Socrata, famous for its aloes, which are esteemed the best in the world.

Sailing down, southward, we come to the island Madagascar, or Lawrence, abounding in cattle and corn, and most of the necessaries of life, but no sufficient merchandize to induce Europeans to settle colonies; it has several petty savage Kings of its own, both Arabs and Negroes, who making war on each other, sell their prisoners for slaves to the shipping which call here, taking cloths, utensils and other necessaries in return.

Near it are the four Comorra isles, whose petty Kings are tributary to the Portuguese; and near these lies the French island Bourbon; and a little higher Maurice, so called by the Dutch, who first touched here in 1598. It is now in possession of the French.

Quitting the eastern world and the Indies, and passing round the Cape of Good Hope, into the wide Atlantick ocean, the first island is the small but pleasant St. Helena, at which place all the English East-India ships stop to get water and fresh provisions in their way home. Near this are the Guinea islands, St. Matthew, St. Thomas and others, not far from the coast under the Equinoctial line, belonging to the Portuguese. These were so named by the sailors, who first found them on St. Helen's, St. Thomas's and St. Matthew's festivals.

Thence