

GREAT POLITICAL DIVISIONS.	SURFACE in square leagues of 20 to an equinoctial degree.	POPULA- TION (1823).
I. Possessions of the Spanish Americans .	371,380	16,785,000
Mexico or New Spain	75,830	6,800,000
Guatemala	16,740	1,600,000
Cuba and Porto Rico	4,430	800,000
Columbia { Venezuela	33,700	785,000
{ New Grenada and Quito	58,250	2,000,000
Peru	41,420	1,400,000
Chili	14,240	1,100,000
Buenos Ayres	126,770	2,300,000
II. Possessions of the Portuguese Ame- ricans (Brazil).	256,990	4,000,000
III. Possessions of the Anglo-Americans (United States)	174,300	10,220,000

From the statistical researches which have been made in several countries of Europe, important results have been obtained by a comparison of the relative population of maritime and inland provinces. In Spain these relations are to one another as nine to five; in the United Provinces of Venezuela, and, above all, in the ancient Capitania-General of Caracas, they are as thirty-five to one. How powerful soever may be the influence of commerce on the prosperity of states, and the intellectual development of nations, it would be wrong to attribute in America, as we do in Europe, to that cause alone the differences just mentioned. In Spain and Italy, if we except the fertile plains of Lombardy, the inland districts are arid, and abounding in mountains or high table-lands: the meteorological circumstances, on which the fertility of the soil depends, are not the same in the lands bordering on the sea, as they are in the central provinces. Colonization in America has generally begun on the coast, and advanced slowly towards the interior; such is its progress in Brazil and in Venezuela. It is only where the coast is unhealthy, as in Mexico and New Grenada, or sandy and exempt from rain as in Peru, that the population is concentrated on the