

of South America ; Sumatra and Banca in connection with Malacca ; India with Ceylon. A chain of islands, in like manner, stretches from the end of the peninsula of Alaska, and a group is planted off Greenland ; while close to the foot of Italy is situated Sicily, the ancient *Trinacria*. It has been remarked as another peculiarity in this peninsular conformation, that it generally terminates with bold abruptness in a promontory or mountain. Cape Horn, the last offshoot of the Andes, guards the extremity of South America ; Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope, that of the African continent ; Australia ends with South-East Cape in mountainous Tasmania ; in India, the Ghauts extend their lofty range to the sea at Cape Comorin ; and the ultimate point of Greenland is the barren but lofty bluff of Cape Farewell.

The cause of this peninsular configuration is unknown ; but we do not think it presumptuous to conjecture that it was designed by an all-wise Creator to promote civilization and commerce by increasing the amount of available coast-line. And it will be found that the greatness—moral, intellectual, and material—of a country, depends upon this very circumstance. Look at Greece, in the ancient ; at Great Britain, France, and the Low Countries, in the modern world. That continent which exhibits the greatest mental activity on the part of its inhabitants, is Europe, which, in proportion to its area, possesses a greater extent of littoral than any other quarter of the world. Its coast-line from the Straits of Waigatz, in the Polar Ocean, to the Strait of Kaffa, at the entrance of the Sea of Azov, is about 19,500 miles. That of Asia measures about 35,000 miles ; that of Africa, whose contour is singularly uniform, except perhaps at the Gulf of Guinea and in the Mediterranean, 16,000 miles ; the American continent, 39,000 miles. In round numbers, the ratio of the number of square miles in the extent of surface, to the number of linear miles in the coast-line in each of those great portions of the globe, is 190 for Europe, 500 for Asia, 750 for Africa, and 416 for America.]

The general direction of the land differs, however, in the old and