

the new continents. America extends from one pole to another, while the Old World lies almost parallel to the equator. The most extended straight line which can be traced on the great continent, keeping as far as possible to the land, begins, according to Bergmann, under the 64th degree of northern latitude, near the mouth of the river Ponaschka, in the Gulf of Anady; traverses Lake Aral, and the southern part of the Caspian Sea; passes near the Persian Gulf and to the north of the Strait of Bab-el Mandeb; crosses Africa, following the Lupata Mountains, which were formerly called the "Backbone of the World;" and terminates at the Cape of Good Hope. It is 148 degrees, or 2400 miles in length, and cuts the equinoctial line at an angle of  $65^{\circ}$ , dividing the ancient continent into two nearly equal halves. On the new continent it becomes very difficult to draw an analogous line: which would have a length of 12,300,000 yards; following a broken line, we obtain an extreme of 18,200,000 yards from the north to the south of America.

Geographers differ greatly in their classification of the great waters. The following is recommended by its simplicity:—

[The *Arctic Ocean* extends from the North Pole to the Polar Circle. Situated between Asia, Europe, and America, it comprises a multitude of gulfs or bays. It is for a great portion of its surface a sea of ice—

" Here let the billows stiffen and have rest."

The *Atlantic*—so called either from Mount Atlas, or the fabulous island of Atlantis—divides the Old World from the New, and stretches from the Arctic Circle to Cape Horn. Its total area is 25,000,000 square miles. Its extreme breadth may be estimated at about 5000 miles; its narrowest part, between Cape St. Roque in Brazil, and the nearest point in Africa, measures 1600 miles. The greatest depth yet discovered is 25,000 feet, equal to  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

The *Pacific Ocean*, so named by its discoverer, Magellan, on account of its supposed tranquillity, lies between America on the east, and Asia, Malaysia, and Australasia on the west. Its greatest length from the Arctic, at Behring's Strait, to the Antarctic Circle, is 9200 miles; its extreme breadth in latitude  $5^{\circ}$  N. 10,300 miles; its area, 80,000,000 square miles, or about two-fifths of the whole surface of the earth.\* Its form is that of a slightly imperfect rhomboid, and its surface is studded with numerous islands and archipelagoes, many of which, by their beauty of aspect, remind one of Tennyson's exquisite lines,—

\* [Compare Professor Ansted, "Physical Geography;" Mrs. Somerville, "Physical Geography;" A. K. Johnston's "Physical Atlas."]