

CHAPTER VIII.

Geographical outline of that part of the African Coast and Continent which is comprized between the Rivers Gambia and Grande; with a brief notice of its southern Inhabitants, its Soil, and principal Animal and Vegetable Productions.

THAT part of the western coast of Africa, lying between the rivers Grande and Gambia, and comprized within the 11th and 13th degrees and 20th minute of north latitude, is not formed by the main land or continent, but by a long chain of low, and fertile, islands, separated from each other, and from the continent, by narrow, navigable, branches of the sea.*

On the northernmost of these islands is the Cape of St. Mary, which forms the southern headland to the entrance of the river Gambia; hence the coast runs nearly south, along five islands, for about 24 leagues, to Cape Roxo, whence it takes nearly an E.S.E. direction along four other islands, for about 45 leagues, when we arrive at the island of Bulama, situated at the mouth of the river Grande. Thus between the mouths of these two

* See a large map of Africa published by Arrowsmith in November 1802; but more particularly the large map at the end of Wadstrom's Essay on Colonization, and the Chart numbered 8 in the African Pilot published by Laurie and Whittle. As I have mentioned Mr. Wadstrom's map, I will take this opportunity of observing that he has, among other authorities, quoted me in that map, for some information relative to the Foulahs and Mandingoes. Now, whether what is there stated relative to them, be true or not, I am totally ignorant. He, therefore, must have acquired that information from some other person; and my name has been placed there by mistake.