

in this channel, yet it is every where abundantly wide, with a sufficient depth of water for the largest vessels; and in every part of it ships may anchor in perfect safety at any season of the year.

The eastern edge is formed by the islands of Galenas, Porcos, Canabac, Mayo, Honey and Poison; along which there is a deep, though narrow, and somewhat dangerous and intricate channel. The isle of Jamber, (though belonging to the Bijugas,) and the shoals between it and the Naloo shore, I consider as forming the eastern boundary of this passage.

Of the south and west limits I have not any knowledge.

Of the islands which lie scattered over this immense bank, scarcely more than the names of some of the principal ones is known to Europeans. Whether or not there be any channel for ships between them, we are yet in the dark; but I am inclined to think that there is not. None of them are more than half a dozen leagues in length; they rise gradually from the shore towards the interior, and never appear to be more than forty feet above the level of the sea; they are extremely fertile, that is the inhabited ones; and are richly clothed with wood; they are evidently alluvial, having in the course of time been formed by the deposit of the Rio Grande, and the neighbouring streams,* on the large sand-bank which forms their base.

* Monsieur Golberry calls these island volcanic, and says that "the whole coast of Africa, from Cape Blanco to Cape Palmas, offers every where traces of their former volcanic state, but more particularly between the Capes of St. Mary and Verga now (although he is in general pretty correct) nothing can more strongly point out his total ignorance of these islands, and the coast between the two last-named capes, than the above observation; for I suppose that it is not possible in the whole world to name an extent of country more totally free from any volcanic appearance than this is. The islands, as well as the continent, being composed of a fine dark rich mould, without either rock, stone, lava, or scorise; and scarcely any where more

Open channel, of water, underhand!

and appearance.

height 40 feet

Described