principal mosques, six of them possessing lofty minarets in the Turkish style. The streets are narrow, dirty, and unpaved ; there is no European quarter properly so called : Tripoli is still a typical Moorish city. Its population num­bers about 20,000.

TRIPOLI *(Tarábulus),* a town of Syria, capital of Liwā, on the river Kadīsha or Abū 'A1ī, in 34° 26' N. lat. and 35° 50' E. long., is situated in a fertile maritime plain covered with orchards and dominated by a castle over­hanging a gorge of the river, some parts of which are, perhaps, the work of the crusaders. The port (Al-Míná) is about two miles distant, on a small peninsula. The population is estimated at 17,000, with the port at 24,000 or a little more. Nearly half of these are Christians, the Maronites preponderating. There is a considerable export of silk cocoons and a native silk manufacture ; the sponge fishery is a large industry ; tobacco is exported ; and soap is made from the olive oil of the district. There are eighteen churches, and several monasteries, nunneries, and large kháns.

The ancient Phoenician city which we know only by its Greek name of Tripolis was the seat in Persian times of the federal council of Sidon, Tyre, and Aradus, each of which cities had its separate quarter in the “triple town” (see vol. xviii. p. 809). In the second and first centuries b.c. it struck coins, on which it is designated a “holy and autonomous” city. These are succeeded by imperial coins ranging from 32 b.c. to 221 a. d. About 450, and again in 550, it was destroyed by earthquake. The Arabs took it in 638 after a prolonged siege, the inhabitants withdrawing by sea. It appears from Beládhorí (p. 127) that at this time the city still consisted of three fortified places. Mo'áwiya recruited the population by a colony of Jews and gave it fortifications and a garrison against the naval attacks of the Greeks, who, notwith­standing, retook it for a brief space in the time of Abdalmalik (Beládh., *ut sup.).* It was again taken by the Greeks in the war of 966-69 and was besieged by Basil II. in 995, after which date it was held by a garrison in the pay of the Fatimite caliphs of Egypt, who treated the city with favour and maintained in it a trading fleet. At this time, according to the description of Násiri Khosrau (ed. Schefer, p. 40 *sqq.),* who visited it in 1047, it lay on the peninsula of Al-Míná, bathed on three sides by the sea, and had about 20,000 inhabitants and important industries of sugar and paper-making. Of the great sea-walls and towers there are still imposing remains. From this date till it was taken by the crusaders, after a five years’ siege, in 1109, the ruling family was that of 'Ammār, who founded a library of over 100,000 volumes. Under the crusaders Tripoli continued to flourish, exported glass to Venice, and had 4000 looms (Quatremère, *Hist. des Sultans Mamlouks,* ii. 103). In 1289 it was taken and destroyed by the sultan Kalaún of Egypt, and a new city was begun on the present site, which rapidly rose to importance (Ibn Batúta, i. 137). Its mediaeval prosperity has obliterated most relics of remoter antiquity.

See Renan, *Mission de Phénicie,* p. 129 *sqq.*

TRIPOLITZA, officially Tripolis, a town of Greece, capital of the nomarchy of Arcadia, is situated in a plain 3000 feet above sea-level, 22 miles south-west of Argos. The name has reference to the three ancient cities of Man­tinea, Pallantium, and Tegea, of which Tripolitza is the modern representative. Before the war of independence it was the capital of the Morea and the seat of a pasha, with about 20,000 inhabitants; but in 1821 it was taken and sacked by the insurgents, and in 1825 its ruin was com­pleted by Ibrahim Pasha. The town has since been re­built, and now (1887) contains about 10,000 inhabitants.

TRISMEGISTUS. See Hermes Trismegistus.

TRISTAN. See Romance, vol. xx. p. 644 *sq.*

TRISTAN DA CUNHA, a group of three small vol­canic islands, situated in the South Atlantic nearly midway between the Cape of Good Hope and the coast of South America, the summit of the largest being in 37° 5' 50'' S. lat. and 12° 16' 40'' W. long. They rise from the low submarine elevation which runs down the centre of the Atlantic and on which are likewise situated Ascension, St. Paul’s Rocks, and the Azores ; the average depth on this ridge is from 1600 to 1700 fathoms, while depths of 3000 fathoms are found on each side of it. The depth between the islands is in some places over 1000 fathoms. Tristan, the largest and northernmost island, is nearly circular in form, about 7 miles in diameter, with a volcanic cone in the centre (7640 feet). Precipitous cliffs, 1000 to 2000 feet in height, rise directly from the ocean on all sides, except on the north-west, where there is an irregular plain, 100 feet above the sea, and 2½ miles in length and ½ mile in breadth. The crater of the central cone is said to be filled with a freshwater lake which never freezes. Inac­cessible Island, the westernmost of the group, is about 20 miles from Tristan. It is quadrilateral in form, the sides being about 2 miles long. The highest point (1840 feet) is on the west side ; all round there are perpendicular cliffs 1000 feet in height. At the base of these are in some places narrow fringes of beach a few feet above the sea­level. Nightingale Island, the smallest and most southern of the group, is 10 miles from Inaccessible Island. Its coasts, unlike those of the other two islands, are surrounded by low cliffs, from which there is a gentle slope up to two peaks, the one 1100 feet, the other 960 feet high. There are two small islets—Stoltenkoff (325 feet) and Middle (150 feet)—and several rocks adjacent to the coast. The rocks are feldspathic basalt, dolerite, augite-andesite, side­romelane, and palagonite; some specimens of the basalt have porphyritic augite. The caves in Nightingale Island indicate that it has been elevated several feet. On almost all sides the islands are surrounded by a broad belt of kelp, the gigantic southern sea-weed *(Macrocystis pyrifera),* through which a boat may approach the rocky shores even in stormy weather. There is no good or safe anchorage. The beaches and lower lands are covered with a dense growth of tussock grass *(Spartina arundinacea),* 8 to 10 feet in height, which shelters millions of penguins *(Eudyptes chrysocoma),* which there form their rookeries. There is one small tree *(Phylica nitida),* which grows in detached patches on the lower grounds. Independently of introduced plants, fifty-five species have been collected in the group, twenty-nine being flowering plants and twenty-six ferns and lycopods. A majority of the species are characteristic of the present general flora of the south temperate zone rather than any particular part of it : botanically the group is generally classed with the islands of the Southern Ocean. A finch (*Nesospiza acunhæ),* a thrush *(Nesocichla eremita),* and a water hen *(Gallinula nesiotis)* are the only land birds—the first two being peculiar to the islands. In addition to the penguins numerous other sea birds nest on the islands, as petrels, albatrosses, terns, skuas, and prions. One or two land shells, a few spiders, several *Coleoptera,* a small lepidopter, and a few other insects are recorded, but no *Orthoptera* or *Hymenoptera.* The prevailing winds are westerly. De­cember to March is the fine season. The climate is mild and on the whole healthy, the temperature averaging 68° Fahr. in summer, 55° in winter,—sometimes falling to 40°. Rain is frequent ; hail and snow fall occasionally on the lower grounds. The sky is usually cloudy. The islands have a cold and barren appearance. The tide rises and falls about four feet.

The islands were discovered and named by the Portuguese in 1506. The Dutch described them in 1643. D’Etcheverri landed on them in the year 1767, when he gave Nightingale and In­accessible Islands their names. Their exact geographical position was determined by Captain Denham in 1852, and the “Challenger” completed the exploration of the group in 1873. When first dis­covered the islands were uninhabited. Towards the end of the 18th and in the beginning of the 19th century several sealers resided on them for longer or shorter periods. In 1816 the islands were taken possession of by Great Britain. In 1817 the garrison was withdrawn, but Corporal William Glass, his wife and family, and two men were allowed to remain. This small colony received addi­tions from time to time from shipwrecks, from whalers, and from the Cape of Good Hope. In 1826 there were 7 men and 2 women