south is about 200 miles. Its length in the southern part is from 400 to 430 miles, and, north of 38°, about half that ex­tent ; its area is about 70,000 square miles, being but little inferior to Scotland and England united.

With the exception of Pennsylvania, Virginia is the only state that extends quite across the great Appalachian chains, and it is traversed from north to south by several well-defined mountain ranges. Our knowledge of the course and connec­tions of these chains, which have not been accurately laid down in maps, is yet very imperfect, but some of them have been traced with tolerable precision. The Blue Ridge, although pierced by the Potomac, James, and Staunton rivers, con­stitutes a well-marked and continuous chain of 260 miles in length. In general it forms rounded, swelling masses, about 2000 feet above the level of the sea, or about 1500 feet above the valleys at its eastern base ; but the Peaks of Otter shoot up in projecting summits to the height of 4260 feet. The prolongation of the Kittutinny mountain of Pennsylvania, enters the state in Morgan county, under the name of the Great Ridge, or North mountain, and passes into North Carolina under the name of the Iron mountain. Its height is generally from 2100 to 2500 feet, but the White Top peak reaches the height of 6000 feet. The Great valley, which lies between these two ridges, some­times called the German valley, is a continuation of the Cumberland and Tulpehocken valleys of Pennsylvania. Through this ridge the New river passes westward, and the James and Potomac eastward. West of this are numer­ous mountain masses, which are probably prolongations of those which traverse central Pennsylvania.

Every portion of Virginia is traversed by fine rivers and streams, useful either as channels of navigation or for manufacturing purposes. The chief of these is the main trunk of the Potomac, which has already been describ­ed under the article Maryland. Its principal tribu­taries are from this state. The Rappahannock rises on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge, and is navigable for small vessels to Fredericksburg, 110 miles. James river is by far the largest and most important of the streams which have their whole course in Virginia, and is not in­ferior to the Potomac and the Kanhawa in utility and the varied beauties of its scenery. Rising in the Alle­ghany mountain. It first bears the name of Jackson’s river, and after having received the Cow Pasture river, a consi­derable stream. It takes the name of King James, passes through the Kittutinny, and several other mountain chains, enters the great valley, and, gathering the waters of that fruitful region, emerges from the Blue Ridge over the Irish Falls. Above Richmond it descends by a fall of seventy feet, in the distance of eight miles, into the low country. Below Richmond it gradually becomes wider and deeper, and in the lower part of its course expands into a long, spacious bay, with sufficient depth for the largest ships. Vessels of 600 tons ascend to City Point, seventy-five miles from the bay, although there are some bars and shoals which obstruct the navigation; and vessels drawing fifteen feet of water proceed thirty miles higher, to Warwick, which is within five miles of Richmond, the capital of the state. The Blackwater, Nottoway, and Meherrin, unite in North Caro­lina to form the Chowan, which enters Albemarle sound. They are all navigable for small coasting vessels. The Great Renawha, and the other rivers of the western section, all reach the Ohio.

The geological formations of this vast region have as yet been but very partially explored. The mineral wealth of Virginia is almost boundless ; gold, copper, lead, iron, coal, salt, limestone, marls, gypsum, magnesian, copperas, and alum earths, excellent marbles, granites, soapstones, freestones, &c., are among its subterraneous treasures. The first coalfield is that of the primary region, the extent of which has not been determined, but indications of coal have

been traced from the South Anna, near its mouth, to Prince Edward, south of the Appomattax. The thickness of the coal-seams is very variable, ranging from four or five to thirty, forty, and even sixty feet ; the coal is bituminous, and of an excellent quality. On the north branch of the Potomac there is a remarkable bituminous coalfield. Upon a stratum of valuable iron-ore, not less than fifteen feet in thickness, there rests a bed of sandstone, upon which reposes a coal-seam three feet thick ; upon this, another bed of sandstone, then a two feet vein of coal ; next sandstone, then another coal-seam of four feet ; again a stratum of sandstone, and over it a seven feet vein of coal ; over this a heavy bed of iron-ore, and crowning the scries an enor­mous coal-seam from fifteen to twenty feet in thickness. West of the Alleghany, there are some of the most exten­sive and valuable deposits of coal in the world. At Wheel­ing, on the Ohio, and for fourteen miles down the river, the bank presents an uninterrupted bed of highly bitumi­nous coal, upwards of sixteen feet thick. Salt springs occur in various places. But the most important works are on the Great and Little Kanawha. Gold is at present the most important of the metallic minerals of Virginia. It occurs throughout a belt on the western side of the primary district, stretching from beyond the Rappahannock to the Appomattax. Most of the gold hitherto obtained has been procured by washings from the deposit-mines, but several veins have yielded rich returns. In 1803, at Reid’s mine, a negro found one lump that weighed twenty-eight pounds avoirdupois, worth eight thousand dollars. The largest piece of gold in one mass, ever found in Europe, weighed only twenty-two ounces ; and this was found in Wicklow in Ireland. But the mines in Virginia are nei­ther extensively worked, nor fully developed. For several years they have been left to the enterprise of the farmers, or owners of the soil, who occupy themselves with mining when not engaged on their farms ; and it is calculated that the product of the mines in this section of the country, will amount to about L.80,000 annually.

Iron will probably at some future day prove to be a more precious deposit ; but, although the ore of several varieties is lavished in profusion on different sections of the state, it is at present but little worked. Copper-ores are found among the altered rocks cast of the Blue Ridge ; and nu­merous openings have been made in Orange, Amherst, Campbell, and Buckingham, for procuring the cupreous rock, which at an early period was ground on the spot, and sent to England to be smelted. Lead occurs in the south­western part of the state, in the forms of the sulphuret (galena) and carbonate, both of which are wrought, yield­ing a large per centage of valuable metal.

A continuous line of railway is nearly completed across the state, from the Potomac to the Roanoke. The Rich­mond and Potomac railroad extends from Potomac creek in Stafford, through Fredericksburg, to Richmond, seventy miles, having been completed in 1836. Railroads and canals cross the state in every direction, affording ready and convenient means of communication for all purposes.

Agriculture has always been the chief occupation of the inhabitants, but not to the exclusion of other branches of industry. “ There is a great diversity in the agriculture of the state, but it is seldom well managed. On both sides of the Blue Ridge, maize, or Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, and buckwheat, are the principal grain crops. Tobacco is the principal staple of most of eastern Virginia, but in the valley it is cultivated only in the southern portion, and not at all beyond the Alleghany. In the eastern and southern counties cotton is planted to a considerable extent. On the shores of the Chesapeake, barley and the castor oil bean are cultivated ; and on some of the best lands above tide-water, hemp is raised to advantage. The Trans-Alleghany county, being exceedingly mountainous and re-