

South Australia, W. of Victoria, capital ADELAIDE (15,000;) Western Australia, in the S. W., capital PERTH (2500.) Australia has few large rivers, and is rather deficient in moisture. The land is chiefly occupied in pasturage, great numbers of sheep and cattle being reared. Wool and gold are the chief exports; and the discovery of rich mines of the latter has drawn great numbers to Australia within the last few years. TASMANIA is separated from Australia by Bass' Straits; capital HOBART TOWN (21,000.) NEW ZEALAND consists chiefly of two large islands S. E. of Australia; chief towns AUCKLAND (10,500,) WELLINGTON (5000;) NELSON (3000.) In Tasmania and New Zealand, the grains and fruits of England flourish; in New Zealand there is also good timber, and a valuable kind of flax; these are also British Colonies. NEW GUINEA, with the adjacent islands of New Britain, New Hebrides, New Ireland, Queen Charlotte Islands, New Caledonia, affords many valuable products of tropical climes. They are inhabited by semi-savage tribes. New Caledonia has been taken possession of by the French.

507. POLYNESIA includes the numerous clusters of islands spread out through the Pacific Ocean. The principal of them are, the LADRONE Islands, in the N. W.; the CAROLINE ISLANDS, N. E. of New Guinea; the SANDWICH ISLANDS, just S. of the tropic of cancer; the FRIENDLY or TONGA ISLANDS, E. of the New Hebrides; the SOCIETY ISLANDS, with Tahiti, E. of the Friendly Islands; the Low ARCHIPELAGO, with Pitcairn Island, S. E. of the Society Islands; the MARQUESAS, N. E. of the Society Islands. Many of these islands are of volcanic origin; others are coral reefs, elevated a little above the water. They enjoy a fine climate, and are fertile, yielding the cocoa, banana, plantain and bread fruit, the sugar cane, and other valuable plants. The inhabitants are a dark or brown semi-savage race, somewhat like both Malays and Negroes. The Sandwich Isles, of which Owhyhee or Hawaii is the principal, are in some degree civilized and have a regular government, many British and Americans being settled there. The mountains Mowna Roa and Mowna Koa are nearly 14,000 feet high; and the volcano Kirauea is often in eruption, pouring out vast streams of lava.

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