



Inhabitants of Oceania.

OCEANICA.

1. OCEANICA comprises the islands lying south of Asia, together with the greater part of those in the Pacific Ocean, situated between Asia and America. They form three great divisions: Malaysia, Australasia, and Polynesia.

2. It extends from north to south about 6200 miles, and from east to west 11,000 miles, and comprises almost a third part of the superficies of the globe. The land area is about one-eleventh part of the land surface of the earth.

3. The discovery of this quarter of the world commenced soon after America was known to Europeans. Magellan, the first navigator who sailed round the globe, passed through the strait which bears his name, more than 300 years ago, and crossed the Pacific Ocean in a direction from south-east to north-west.

4. After Magellan, the Spaniards, Dutch, and English, continued the progress of discovery. Of the latter, Captain James Cook contributed more to our knowledge of the Islands in this quarter than any other individual. Since his time, numerous navigators and whalers, principally English, French, and Americans, have traversed the Pacific Ocean in every direction, and have probably left but little to be ex-

Oceanica. Q.—1. Describe Oceanica. 2. Its extent. 3. What is said of its discovery, &c.? 4. What took place after Magellan? What