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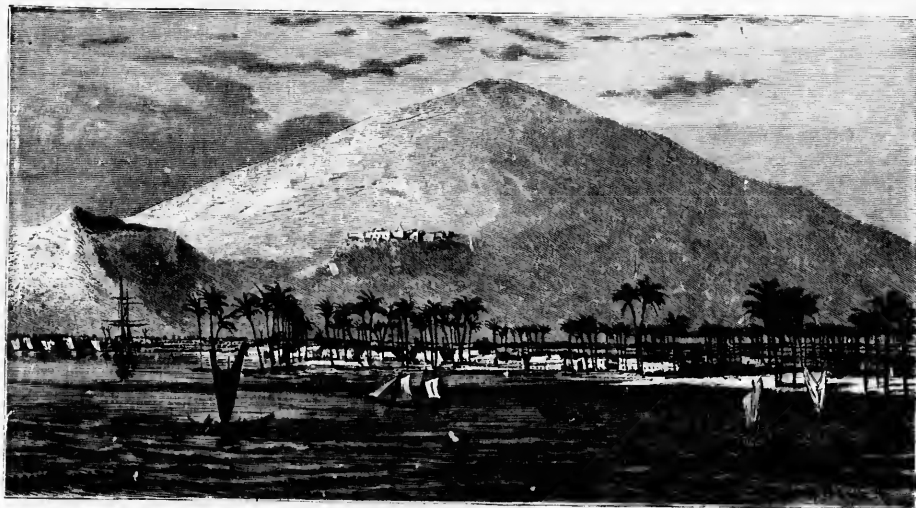
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839. SCENE IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

CHAPTER VI.

OCEANIA.

796. The sixth great division of the world comprises the islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. All these islands taken together are called *Oceania*, and they are usually divided into three separate groups—*Malaysia*, *Australasia*, and *Polynesia*.

MALAYSIA.

797. The islands in this group lie near Asia, on the south. They are sometimes called the *East India Islands*. The most important islands are *Sumatra*, *Java*, *Borneo*, *Celebes*, the *Moluccas*, and the *Philippine Islands*.

798. These islands are generally mountainous. Some of

them have lofty volcanoes. Earthquakes and hurricanes are of frequent occurrence.

799. All the islands are near the Equator. The climate is hot and moist, and the soil is fertile. The products are rice, sugar, coffee, spices, tobacco, and various fruits of hot countries.

The forests are dense like those of Brazil. They yield ebony, rose-wood, fragrant sandal-wood, camphor, cinnamon, and many valuable gums and dye-woods.

800. The shores are covered with beautiful shells, and the coast waters yield valuable pearls.

Pearls are found in the oysters which are obtained among the rocks at the bottom of the sea. Men go out in boats and dive for the oysters. This is dangerous, hard work, and those who follow it are said to be short-lived.