

829. The **climate** is hot and humid, but not unhealthy except in swampy districts. Among the **products** are cocoa-nuts, betel, sago, bread-fruit, bananas, oranges, and spices.

830. **The New Hebrides** comprise many small islands. The products are tropical.

831. These islands are noted as the scene of the labours of several missionaries from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Some of these missionaries were cruelly murdered by the natives.

### POLYNESIA.

832. Polynesia includes numerous groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean east of the Philippine Islands and the New Hebrides.

833. Many of these islands are but slightly elevated above the surface of the sea, and cannot be seen until you are close upon them. When first coming into view, the trees seem to rise out of the water. These are *Coral Islands*. In some cases a coral island consists of a ring of land with a lake in the centre. Along the inner and outer shores is a beach of pure white sand.

834. Other islands, formed by volcanoes, are elevated and mountainous. Some of them are surrounded by a low coral island in the form of a broken ring or band. Vessels can sail through the openings of the ring into the peaceful waters within

835. The islands of Polynesia enjoy perpetual summer, and many of them are remarkable for their beauty. The natives subsist largely on the products of the cocoa-nut palm, the bread-fruit tree, and on other fruits which cost them little labour.

836. The most important groups of islands in Polynesia are the *Feejee Islands*, the *Society Islands*, and the *Sandwich Islands*.

837. The *Feejee Islands* yield cotton, cocoa-nuts, yams, and arrow-root. Wesleyan missionaries have converted many of the inhabitants to Christianity. These islands have lately, at the request of the natives, been annexed to Great Britain.

838. The *Society Islands*, owned by France, are among the most important of Polynesia. One of the group, called *Tahiti*, has mountains nearly two miles high, and is celebrated for its beautiful scenery.

839. The *Sandwich Islands*, of which *Hawaii* is much the largest, have an independent government. About one hundred years ago the natives were fierce savages, who killed the celebrated navigator Captain Cook. Through the labours of missionaries these people are now greatly changed. Churches and schools have been established, and the king and nearly all his subjects have embraced the Christian religion. The products are sugar-cane, coffee, rice, tobacco, and wheat. *Honolulu*, the capital, is frequently visited by ships crossing the Pacific between America and Asia.

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