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A YEAR'S CRUISE

IN

THE PACIFIC.

CHAPTER I.

“ How beautiful it is ! fresh fields of wheat,
Vineyard, and town, and tower with fluttering flag,
The consecrated chapel on the crag,
And the white hamlet gathered round its base.”

LONGFELLOW.

UPON approaching the Island of Madeira, the first striking thing you notice is an unusually luminous appearance in the water, which seems to flash as the ship moves on. This phenomenon is caused by innumerable little animals, named (according to learned