



ERUPTION, MANNA LOA, HAWAII.

## OCEANIA.

Area, 4,200,000 square miles, or one-twelfth part of the land surface of the globe; population, about 38,000,000.

Oceania is the name usually given to a fifth great division of the globe. It includes the vast number of islands lying to the south-east of Asia, and those in the Pacific Ocean. They are generally small, though collectively they comprise an area somewhat larger than the whole of Europe. These islands are divided into *Malaysia*, or the East Indian Archipelago, *Australasia*, and *Polynesia*.

### MALAYSIA.

**Malaysia**, or the East Indian Archipelago, comprises the numerous islands lying to the south-east of Asia. The principal are: *Sumatra*, *Java*, *Borneo*, *Celebes*, the *Philippine Islands*, the *Moluccas*, or Spice Islands, *Flores*, *Timor*, etc.

These islands are volcanic in their formation, and are all within the torrid zone. They are within the range of the monsoons; and, owing to the sea breezes, the climate is not so hot as on the adjacent continent. The soil is rich and fertile, and large quantities of spices, sugar, coffee, and other tropical productions are exported.

They are peopled chiefly by Malays—an active, but fierce and treacherous race, much addicted to piracy. The natives of some of the islands are negritos, a savage and very degraded race. The whole population is estimated at 33,000,000. Most of the islands belong to European nations. The Dutch possess Java, with portions of Sumatra, Borneo, and Celebes, besides a number of the

smaller islands. The Spaniards possess the greater part of the Philippines. The British have possessed the small island of Labuan, off the coast of Borneo, since 1846. The Dutch possessions were captured by the British in the beginning of this century, but were restored at the peace of 1814.

**Sumatra** is a long narrow island, upwards of 1,000 miles in length, lying to the south-west and south of the Malay Peninsula, from which it is separated by the Strait of Malacca. The island is about the size of Quebec, and is directly under the equator. It is traversed by chains of lofty mountains, one of their summits rising over 12,000 feet in height. Most of the surface is covered with dense forests, affording a retreat to numerous wild animals. Between the mountain ranges are large and fertile plains, producing coffee, pepper, rice, and camphor, which are largely exported. The Dutch possess all that part of the island lying south of the equator; the remainder is occupied by native States. The principal Dutch towns are *Palembang*, *Pudang*, and the seaport of *Bencoolen*. The islands of *Banca* and *Billiton*, off the east coast, belong to the Dutch, and contain valuable tin mines.

**Java** lies to the south-east of Sumatra, from which it is separated by the Strait of Sunda. It is about one and one-fourth times the size of Newfoundland, and is the most populous and fertile of the Malaysian Islands. It is traversed by a lofty chain of volcanic mountains, and has numerous fine harbors and bays. Large quantities of coffee, rice, sugar, and cinnamon are exported; and in the interior are extensive forests of teak. The popu-