

the west and the East Indies and Australia on the east. The winds which prevail over the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal change with the season, and blow from north-east in winter and south-west in summer, and in changing affect the direction of the ocean currents. Very early in the Christian era a Greek navigator noticed the seasonal character of these winds, called monsoons, and utilized them in voyages between Southern Arabia and India. In the Middle Ages the Mohammedan Arabs, who were great traders, established many commercial stations along the African coast, and from that time to the present have constantly imported slaves and various products thence. Zanzibar is still an Arab sultanate, though now under British protection.

South of Africa is the sea-route between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, which was first traversed by **Vasco da Gama** on his voyage to India 1497-1498. His ship was the precursor of many others, mainly Portuguese, during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and later Dutch, French, and British. Though the Portuguese obtained possession of many ports round the Indian Ocean, their conquests are now only represented by Goa, Daman, and Diu in India, and part of Timor in the East Indies. The British, Dutch, and French started trading companies, which gradually acquired land—the Dutch mainly in the East Indies, the British and French in India and Indo-China. Clive's victories in the eighteenth century reduced the French possessions in India to only a few towns, and later the authority of the British East India Company was transferred to the Crown. Both French and British hold lands in Indo-China; but the important route via the Strait of Malacca to the Pacific is controlled by British settlements in the Malay Peninsula, and by the fortified coaling-station of Singapore.

The Australian Boundary.—There is no historic record of communication between Australia and Asia till within the last few centuries; and even to-day it is but slight. Long ages ago there probably existed a land connection by which mammals entered Australia; but the curious nature of its fauna points to a long period of isolation. The change from Asiatic to Australian fauna apparently takes place between the Isles of Bali and Lombok, just east of Java; but, for reasons of physical structure, the division between the continents is best regarded as lying east of Timor and the Moluccas and west of New Guinea.

S. E. Boundary. **The Pacific Ocean.**—This ocean was so named by **Magellan**, on account of its calmness when he crossed it in 1520-1521, after passing