

plored. In the year 1841 the American Exploring Expedition visited many of the islands in these seas.

5. The islands of Oceanica are situated principally within the tropics, and are exposed to a considerable degree of heat. The temperature, however, is various. Some of them enjoy a delightful climate, and are among the most favoured and fertile countries on the globe.

6. Nearly all the large islands are elevated. Some contain mountains of great altitude. Volcanoes are numerous, and occasionally cause dreadful ravages. The smaller islands are low, many of them scarcely rising above the surface of the water, and are often destitute of vegetation and inhabitants: some again are covered with groves of cocoanut and other trees, and are well peopled.

7. Most of the animals found in these islands are similar to those of the south of Asia; but there are several varieties peculiar to this quarter. The orang-outang abounds in Borneo, and the Malay tapir in Java and other islands. The kangaroo, emeu, duckbill, and black swan, exist only in Australia.

8. The natives of Oceanica are various in manners, customs, and condition. They consist, for the most part, of two distinct races, the Malays, or brown variety of the human family, and the Papuan, Oriental, or Melanesian Negroes.

9. The Malays are found in different stages of civilization, and comprise two distinct classes, nobles and slaves. Some of them are comparatively improved; others are extremely barbarous, and in many instances they are cannibals. The people of Polynesia are principally pagans; those of Malaysia are partly Mahomedans and partly pagans.

10. The Papuans constitute a variety of the black race, but are, for the most part, smaller in person, and not so dark in complexion, as the African negroes. They are generally destitute of clothing or dwellings, often live on the most disgusting food, and are supposed to have no definite ideas of a Supreme Being.

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MALAYSIA.

1. MALAYSIA derives its name from the Malays, the most numerous people in this region. It is also called the East India Archipelago; and contains the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo, usually called the Sunda Isles, together with the island of Celebes, the Moluccas, or Spice Islands, the Philippine Islands, and some smaller groups.

is said of Captain Cook? What has occurred since his time? In 1841?

5. What is said of the islands, &c.? 6. Larger islands? 7. Animals?

8. Natives of Oceanica? 9. The Malays? 10. Papuans?

Malaysia. Q.—1. What is said of Malaysia? What does it contain?