

ETHNOGRAPHY.

OCEANICA.

THE term *Oceanica* is now commonly applied to the land included in that portion of the globe which lies between the coasts of Asia and America. Besides the great island or continent of New Holland, it comprises the extensive insular masses forming what is called the East Indian Archipelago, and the countless smaller clusters scattered over the surface of the Pacific Ocean. The latest writers, particularly the French voyagers and geographers, have, with much propriety, subdivided this region into five minor departments, distinguished from one another both by their natural features, and by the character of their inhabitants. These are Malaisia, Melanesia, Australia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, all of which have been visited and examined, to a greater or less extent, in the course of our voyage. The first of these names is applied to the islands in the East Indian seas occupied by the yellow Malay race,—the principal of which are Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Celebes, the Moluccas, the Sooloo Group, and the Philippine Islands. The peninsula of Malacca and the island of Formosa are also inhabited, in great part, by people of this race.

Melanesia comprises that part of Oceanica inhabited by a dark-skinned race, with woolly or frizzled hair; it includes New Guinea and the adjacent islands of Arroo, Mysol, and Waygeoo, to the west,