

and New Britain, New Ireland, the Solomon Islands, and the New Hebrides, to the east. *Australia* is another name for New Holland, the aborigines of which are remarkable for presenting the singular combination of a complexion as dark as that of the African negroes, with soft and straight hair, as in the white race. *Micronesia* is a term applied to the long range of little groups and strips of coral rock, which are scattered over the Pacific to the north of the equator, and east of the Philippines,—the most important of which are the Pelew and Marian (or Ladrone) Islands, Banabe, the Radack Chain, and the Kingsmill Group. Finally, the name *Polynesia* has been long used to designate the islands in the East Pacific, inhabited by light-coloured tribes, allied to the Malaisian, and all speaking dialects of one general language. This being the division which was first and longest under our observation, will be first described.

POLYNESIA.

The principal groups of Polynesia, with their native names and the estimated numbers of their inhabitants, are as follows :

1. The Navigator Islands. This group is situated between 169° and 173° of west longitude, and between 13° and 15° of south latitude. It consists of four large islands, *Savaii*, *Upolu*, *Tutuila*, and *Manua*; and four small, *Manono*, *Apolima*, *Orosenga*, and *Ofu*. *Savaii*, the largest and most westerly, is about one hundred miles in circuit. The native name for the whole group is *Samoa*. The population is estimated by the missionaries at fifty-six thousand six hundred, of which four-fifths belong to the two large islands of *Savaii* and *Upolu*.

2. The Friendly Islands. These lie south-southwest of the preceding, between the meridians of 173° and 176° E., and the parallels of 18° and 22° S. The group consists of three distinct clusters, that of *Tonga*, that of *Habai*, and that of *Hafulu Hau*. The first named is the southernmost, and consists of two large islands, *Tonga* and *Eua*, and several small ones. *Tonga* is the largest island of the Friendly Group, for which its name is commonly used as a general appellation, the island itself being distinguished by the epithet of *tabu*, or sacred. It is rather more than sixty miles in circuit, and contains about one hundred and fifty square miles. It is a low, flat island, of coral formation, elevated but a few feet above the level of the sea, and covered with a rich soil of vegetable mould two or three feet deep.