find that the formations, not only of the entire coast, but of more than half the region hitherto known as Oceania or Polynesia. If all these are to be grouped together under a single name, perhaps "Australasia" is the best, for that name has generally included the most important portions of the area, and recalls besides the old "Terra Australis;" but Mr. Wallace's argument for its use, that the region in question is "geographically a southern extension of Asia," has, as regards the greater part of the area embraced, but a remote geological application.

Readers of Mr. Wallace's former books are familiar with the important qualifications which he brings to his present work—the faculty of close observation, of ingenious reasoning, and of clear and intelligent description. He has also the advantage of a personal acquaintance with some of the remotest places and people of whom he writes. The countries described resolve themselves naturally into two distinct groups; the one composed of the British colonies of Oceania, to which one-half of the volume is devoted, the other a vast assemblage of islands inhabited by native races. These, speaking generally, comprise on the west the Malay Archipelago, mostly co-extensive with the great Eastern Empire of the Dutch; then New Guinea and the neighbouring islands, where we find the nucleus of the dark Papuan or Melanesian race; while over the vast region farther eastward lie scattered the homes of the fairer Polynesians. Mr. Wallace has succeeded well in the twofold object he no doubt had in view, viz., to combine a comprehensive, statistical information with a "readable" account of the regions described. In his account of Australia, especially, we are struck with the skill and effect with which he has carried out this purpose. Thus, in discussing the geology of that country, we have in the first place a good map, by which we find that the formations, not only of the entire coast, but of more than half the interior of this great island, which almost equals Europe in extent, have already been ascertained. Then, after some interesting speculations as to the former extent and direction of the Australian land, the author takes the opportunity of giving in some detail a clear explanation, aided by sections, of the character and mode of formation of the gold deposits, and also of that "desert sandstone" which covers such vast tracts in the interior, though he does not account for the absence of fossils from this formation. Again, after examining and speculating on the peculiar characteristics of the flora, he describes the peculiar plants which form the different varieties of "bush" and "scrub," thus enabling the reader to whom these terms have been hitherto mere names to form a comparatively vivid conception of their appearance, and of the difficulties of Australian travelling.

Mr. Wallace gives all the necessary statistics of population, trade, revenue, education, and political constitution, which tell, with an eloquence of their own, the wonderful tale of rapid growth and true prosperity; but to think with advantage of the new and recent additions which have added some notice of the conditions of political and social life and of society in these colonies. In his description of the various islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and of the people who inhabit them, Mr. Wallace has again combined much pleasant reading with a record of statistics for reference, dwelling occasionally on points of more than usual interest. In a sketch of the career of the late Rajah Brooke, which, though an episode, is yet by no means out of place in a notice of the Malay Islands, Mr. Wallace adds interesting historical and ethnological details, and, in his account of the region which, as shown by its continued success under the present ruler, has now borne the test of time. While dwelling on the peculiar habits and customs of the Pacific races, Mr. Wallace might, we venture to think, have devoted a little more space to their political institutions, which, though now dying out, were in many of the groups very elaborate, and also to their religious systems. These matters, too, if of less value than linguistic or physiological evidence, have also their bearing on those ethnological questions which are discussed at length. Mr. Wallace has, however, said his work as much as possible to the effect of the changes of the islands of Islam and of Christianity respectively. "Islam," he tells us, "has deprived even of all higher aims in life, reducing their pursuits mainly to navigation and piracy;" while, when they become Christians, they merely "abstain from shaving their heads, or filling down their teeth, and drink wines and spirits." With these views as to the influence of the higher creeds, he may naturally consider the older ones as hardly worth recording. Though writing dispassionately about the Dutch, we cannot help wishing that he had commented more on their colonial administration, and it is probable that their merits in this respect are hardly understood in England; nor do we always realise the great extent and value of their Eastern dominions, as these are brought home to us by Mr. Wallace's map and statistics. True, much of the territory appropriated has never been explored, much less occupied or administered; and such appropriations would perhaps not be recognised by any other Western Power which happened greatly to desire the territory in question. The validity of such annexations is a wide and a delicate question. We cannot, however, agree with the author that the Dutch claim to the western half of New Guinea is "well supported," being founded merely on a series of coast surveys, and on their claim to suzerainty over the chiefs of some small neighbouring islands. It must have been by an oversight that, in his sketch of the history of Java, Mr. Wallace makes no mention of the period of English occupancy under Sir Stamford Raffles, to whose enlightened administration the island owes so much, and whose Reports are still so valuable. We find, too, occasional repetitions, and a few inconsistent statements. For instance, at p. 569, we read that "the native rat, which entered New Zealand with the Maories, is now being extirpated by the Norwegian variety;" but we had read, on p. 559, that the native rat has been so completely "destroyed that no specimen of it is known to exist, and it is therefore uncertain whether the species can ever again be re-introduced as an animal. While its having been brought thither originally by the natives is, we are told, only a "tradition." Again, at p. 498, Mr. Wallace argues the great antiquity of the Polynesian race from their ignorance of the art of making pottery, "its practice being so simple and at the same time so useful, that, once known, it would certainly never have been lost;" but on the next page he admits that, in the progress of migration from island to island, the "art might have been lost for want of suitable materials." That the Polynesians did and do possess pottery is by no means mysterious, in that the Samoans, as far as the point from or through which the last great migratory movement probably passed to the eastward, was not without intercourse with Fiji, which produces perhaps the best pottery in the Pacific. The art would, therefore, seem rather to have lapsed. Mr. Wallace meanwhile appositely reminds us that "we cannot measure the status of human advancement merely by progress in the mechanical arts." His facts and statistics are not invariably correct. Thus he is mistaken in speaking of cannibalism as still practised in Hawaii, while at p. 505 he attributes the increase of the population on Niue to the fact that "an increase of the population on Niue to the fact that "our population is increasing so rapidly that it is hardly more than half of its present size." We had read, on p. 569, that the Maories, while at p. 505 he attributes the increase of the population on Niue to the fact that "an increase of the population on Niue to the fact that "our population is increasing so rapidly that it is hardly more than half of its present size." We had read, on p. 569, that the Maories, while at p. 505 he attributes the increase of the population on Niue to the fact that "an increase of the population on Niue to the fact that "our population is increasing so rapidly that it is hardly more than half of its present size." 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few discrepancies occur between statements in the text, and others in the ethnological appendix contributed to this as to the other volumes of the series by Mr. A. H. Keane. When these differences occur on such points as the relation of different races to each other, or the dates or circumstances of their migrations, they are not to be wondered at, nor, indeed, are they necessarily a disadvantage to the reader; but while Mr. Keane, for instance, holds the more usual view that the Javanese and Battak alphabets are derived from the Devanagari, Mr. Wallace considers they are independent inventions.

It may be remembered that Mr. Wallace, in his *Malay Archipelago*, held a peculiar view of the mutual relations of the Pacific races. Other observers had questioned the close connexion in blood and language between the Malays and the brown Polynesian race implied in the term "Malayo-Polynesian," but Mr. Wallace, besides denying this connexion, held that these Polynesians were only a variety of the dark Papuan race. The latter opinion, we gather from the present race implied in the term "Malayo-Polynesian," Mr. Wallace pronounces them to be "fundamentally one and the same race." Almost all recent students of the languages in question agree with Mr. Wallace that the languages in question agree with Mr. Wallace that the Polynesians and Malays to a greater extent than in physique." Almost all recent students of the languages in question agree with Mr. Wallace that the Malay applies also to the Polynesian in every respect, except as to height, and partly as to the hair.

Mr. Keane quotes from a recent paper by van Rosenberg some curious, though hardly "conclusive," evidence in favour of the theory he adopts of the origin of the Polynesian race, viz., that they were the *autochthones* of the Malay Archipelago. Van Rosenberg tells us that the people of the Mantaway Islands, to the west of Sumatra, are totally unlike the inhabitants of the neighbouring lands, and strikingly resemble in physique, and also, though to what extent is doubtful—in speech, the Eastern Polynesians, of whom accordingly Mr. Keane "inevitably concludes" them to be a remnant, perhaps the sole remnant, un influenced by subsequent Mongolide invasions. But other instances of tribes taller and fairer than the surrounding Malays, and equally differing from their Papuan neighbours, have been already noticed at various points in the Archipelago. Mr. Wallace, indeed, himself found such a people in the island of Gilolo, though he attaches no especial significance to their presence there, or probably considers that any conclusion from the fact would be premature; but it would have been interesting if he could have

*See Quarterly Review, No. ccxxvii., p. 193.*