is a plain over which a fell scorching wind blows for months together. The climate of Central Asia, where the steppe is a continuous
in which "nowhere does the landscape weary." The Molucca
have their spices, their magnificently feathered birds, and gorgeous
butterflies which fly about the very streets of the town. The sea
about Amboyna, to which we have alluded in the last number, is
paved with a "varied growth of corals, sponges, actiniaria, and other marine
productions. They form a water-garden of exquisite beauty, amid
whose transparent waters are seen fishes blue, red, and yellow, dotted
and striped in the most eccentric patterns, and taking the place of
butterflies in those marine gardens." Flores has its thickets where
a branch cannot be broken without "severe wounds and fever, or even
cold ague." The mountainous sections of the island are snow-covered
snow-covered mountains seventeen thousand feet high, its gold,
and its abounding birds of paradise; the Solomon Islands have their
sandal-wood and ebony. The Samoan islands are so popular
that "the means of subsistence are perhaps obtained more easily
than in any other part of the world." In Tahiti the way-
farer is everywhere "soothed by the fragrance of sweet-smelling
flowers, while his ears are ravished by the music of
genius"; Sandwich group is "an earthly paradise" where the people have
"a holiday look, never appearing oppressed by overwork." There is
"Kilauea, the most remarkable burning mountain in the world,
with its fathomless oval lake of glowing lava. Eight
of its eleven genera of birds are peculiar to it. Of shells every
hill possesses peculiar kinds, found nowhere else. In Ponapé,
the human inhabitants of these enchanted lands are to the full
exceptional as the flora and the fauna. The Australian
natives are to be connected are some of the hill tribes of Central India whom
women are slaves, and are speared for the slightest offence—
even for the husband's disappointment in the chase. A girl
would always butcher the female members of their family.
when the aborigines were the destructors. The savages that, with no remedy but a little fine dust
over the back and chest. On the Murray River girls have
forms peopled with .. colossal statues of disdainful man." The
Sandwich group is "an earthly paradise" where the people have
"a whole race of wingless birds, represented
now only by the apteryx. That, too, is on the high road to
extinction. So singular and undesirable a bird, the ow!-parrot, which
"has lately exhibited a remarkable taste for flesh, picking holes
in the backs of sheep and lambs." There are no snakes. The land,
though it possesses some gigantic trees, is extraordinarily poor in
ample soil and crop, and cannot be ready to yield the best
of it. Everything growsward and multiplies in a climate enjoying the variety
which comes of an extension through fourteen degrees of latitude.
When first discovered, New Zealand possessed of mammalia only
dogs and rats, and they had probably been imported.
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which, as well as Borneo, is considered by Mr. Wallace, though not by Heilwald, to belong to Australasia, the Malays of Achin are Mahometans, but tolerant. Their neighbours have a proverb, "The Acheenese will curse a Christian, and then invariably repair to the same house for sugar." It is a belief, not a kindest and most pleasing of savages; but, except when the fear of Europeans restrains them, they have the same inconvenient custom as that upheld by King Cetewayo of refusing leave to marry till the whole unfortunate affair is settled. The treaties signed between the coast-dwellers and Europeans have not been of much use or consequence for housekeeping. Even in the British colony of Labuan the custom has not been absolutely put down. In Sarawak it is particularly against the good judgment of Sir James Brooke. Mr. Wallace regards the government of Sarawak as a standing proof that the art of ruling half-civilized races is not so complex as has been supposed. "A liberal, brave, open, and candid, without suspicion of treachery, a man must never be seen abroad with his legitimate wife. The result is that the population is fast dwindling. Misguided missionary zeal is charged by Mr. Wallace with having contributed to this result, by instigating the first and extermination of the Fijians. The consequence is that the fermented juice of the orange has taken the place of the indigenous dance of the past. As Tahiti isFrench, so the Sandwich Islands are Americanized. According to Mr. Wallace, the effects of the new civilization have been equally dubious in both. Here again, too, he charges part of the result on the missionaries—in this instance, the Congregational denomination of the United States—for having represented Christianity as "a severe legal Jewish religion, deprived of its dignity, beauty, tenderness, and amiability." A climate and soil only too willing to maintain life without toil may perhaps be equally responsible. For five hundred years before the population of the South Sea Islands was discovered, they have to extort scanty food from sea and rock than to enjoy the leisure of the Peselew islanders, who employ it in inventing an order of knighthood, which has for its insignia the first cervical vertebra of the sea-calf. Volunteerism is effected by thrusting the hand through the narrow ring of the fishbone to the imminent peril of losing a finger. Another polite fashion of the Peselew is that a man must never be seen abroad with his legitimate wife. The Peselew gentlemen might be supposed to have studied in Paris or Florence. Maoris also are polite and courteous; but their courtesy does not assume the same sophisticated form as in the Peselew islands. To a certain extent the beneficial effects of the necessity of toil may be observed in the Maoris as in the Gilbert islanders. The absence of tropical vegetation in New Zealand and the paucity of animal life called forth physical and moral dexterity. The Fijians themselves at present appear to have secured immunity from the usual fatal consequences of European connexion, though noble vestiges of the ancient human feeling are still to be seen. The feasts twenty bodies would be served up at once. The love of slaughter is not always, however, connected with the table. No solemnity was perfect in the times before British domination. Investment is effected by thrusting the hand through the narrow ring of the fishbone to the imminent peril of losing a finger. Another polite fashion of the Peselew is that a man must never be seen abroad with his legitimate wife. The Peselew gentlemen might be supposed to have studied in Paris or Florence. Maoris also are polite and courteous; but their courtesy does not assume the same sophisticated form as in the Peselew islands. 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