

## CHAPTER XIII.

### FIJI ISLANDS.

Position and Area of the Islands of the Group. Kandavu Island. Grindstones for Stone Adzes. Shooting Birds in the Woods. Terrestrial Hermit Crabs. Visit to a Barrier Reef. Ovalau Island. Excursion to Livoni. Fijian Convicts. Log Drum. Native Hairdressing. Kaava Drinking. Buying Stone Adzes. Excursion to Mbau Island. Structure of the Island. Na vatani tawaki. Relics of Cannibalism. Interview with King Thackombau. Connection of Wooden Drums and Bells. Excursion up the Wai Levu. Sugar Plantations at Viti. Freshwater Sharks. Joe the Pilot. Fijian Fortifications and Tombs. A Chief's House and his Children. A Missionary Meeting. Various Modes of Painting the Body. Grand Dancing Performances. Primitive Origin of Music, Poetry, and the Drama. Wesleyan Missionary. Albino Native. Congregation of Races at Levuka. Fijian Modes of Expression. Laughter. Cicatrization. The Ula. Particulars concerning Cannibalism.

**Fiji Islands, July 25th to August 11th, 1874.**—We arrived at Kandavu Island, Fiji, on July 25th, and stayed at Fiji till August 10th, the ship making a short trip to Levuka in Ovalau, and returning to Kandavu to complete a survey of the harbour, Ngaloa Bay.

The Fiji Group is scattered over an area of about 40,000 square miles on either side of the meridian of  $180^{\circ}$  W., between lats.  $16^{\circ}$  and  $20^{\circ}$  S. The meridian of  $180^{\circ}$ , roughly speaking, runs northward through the western end of the Aleutian chain, and between Behring's Straits and Kamschatka, and southward passes just to the east of New Zealand. In latitude, the Fijis correspond roughly with Tahiti, Rio Janeiro and Rodriguez. In the northern hemisphere with St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, and Bombay.

The land surface of the Fijis is about 7,000 square miles in area, or about 1,000 square miles in excess of that of Yorkshire, and there are about 150 islands in the group, excluding the very small ones.\* Viti Levu, the largest island, is 94 statute miles long by 55 broad.

\* The whole Fiji Group, *exclusive of Coral islets*, includes an area of about 5,500 square miles of dry land, while at the period when the coral