

## CHAPTER XII.

### *NEW ZEALAND. THE FRIENDLY ISLANDS. MATUKU ISLAND.*

Wellington, New Zealand. The Rata Tree. Kingfisher with Littoral Habits. Peripatus. Egg Capsules of Land Planarians. The Vegetation of the Kermadec Islands. Red-coloured Muscles of the Shark. Island of Eua. General Appearance of the Island of Tongatabu. Tongan Natives. Mode of Hairdressing. Facial Expression of the Natives. A Pea Jacket a Badge of Distinction. Town of Nukualofa. Dress of Tongan Women. Getting Fire by Friction. Deserted Plantations. Fruit-bats Feeding on Flowers. Herons, Tree-swifts, and other Birds. Parasitic Algæ in Foraminifera. Matuku Island, Fiji Group. The Island an Ancient Crater. Its Vegetation. Encircling Reef. Flocks of Lories. *Periophthalmus*, a Fish Living on Land. Living Pearly Nautilus. Its Mode of Swimming. Account of the Nautilus, by Rumphius.

**Wellington, June 28th to July 7th, 1874.**—We encountered constant gales on the voyage from Sydney to Wellington in New Zealand. The voyage lasted 14 days, and we arrived at Wellington on June 28th. The ship had to be anchored for two nights under the lee of D'Urville Island, on the south side of the entrance to Cook's Straits, until the weather moderated sufficiently to allow of the ship's passing up the straits to Wellington.

We found deep water, 2,600 fathoms, between the Australian coast and New Zealand, as might have been confidently predicted from the vast difference of the New Zealand from the Australian fauna and flora. Around New Zealand itself, there is a considerable extent of shallow sea with very uneven bottom, and from this shallow a stretch of comparatively raised bottom is extended to Northern Australia, including on its surface Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island.

The stay at Wellington was very short, and as I was not in good health I saw very little of the country. The town necessarily contrasts unfavourably in appearance with Sydney. The buildings are all of wood, even Government House. There is one long principal street following the shore, and the remainder is more or less scattered. Tattooed Maories were