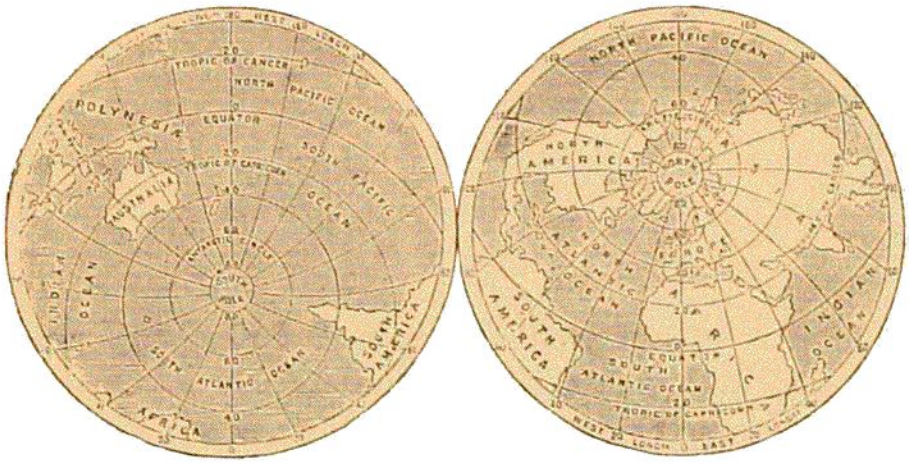
New Zealand, is in the centre of the greatest mass of water. Hence a person raised above Falmouth, which is almost the geographical central point, until his gaze could comprehend an entire hemisphere, would see the greatest possible expanse of land; while, if he were elevated to the same altitude above New Zealand, he would survey the greatest possible extent of ocean. In fact, as Mrs. Somerville remarks, only one twenty-seventh of the land has *land* directly opposite to it in the antipodal hemisphere, and under the equator five-sixths of its circumference is water. It may be observed that the effect of this arrangement has been to facilitate the intercourse of nations, and to expedite the progress of humanity in art, science, literature, and religion. Had Asia been separated from Europe by an ocean as vast as the Atlantic, or Egypt from Greece by such a barrier of water as divides Spain from Mexico, how slow would have been the march of civilization! A Columbus, at this very epoch, might be venturing across the unknown seas to reveal to Europe and America the existence of an Asiatic continent! Or, as we owe our religion and our learning to Asia, Europe might still be involved in a worse than Cimmerian darkness.]

In the *aqueous hemisphere*, delineated in the accompanying illustration, the earth appears like islands scattered over the surface of the water; in the *terrestrial hemisphere*, the seas appear like close basins surrounded by the earth—like, for instance, the Mediterranean and the frozen ocean of the North Pole. The geographers of the eighteenth century, to explain this striking inequality, supposed the existence of some great Austral continent, which counter-balanced the



Aqueous Hemisphere. Terrestrial Hemisphere.

FIG. 35.—HEMISPHERES, AQUEOUS AND TERRESTRIAL.

mass of the northern lands. But the voyages of Captain Cook [1772–75] put an end to these speculations. That illustrious navigator proved that what had been mistaken, at the south pole, for