

“Slides the bird o'er lustrous woodland, swings the trailer from the crag;  
 Droops the heavy blossomed bower, hangs the leafy-fruited tree—  
 Summer isles of Eden lying in dark purple spheres of sea.”\*

The first European who beheld the Pacific was Nunez de Balboa, in September 13th, 1513—

“Silent, upon a peak in Darien;”

the first who traversed it, Magellan, in 1521; its more celebrated explorers have been Captain Cook, Anson, Bougainville, La Perouse, D'Entrecasteaux, Cartier, Vancouver, Wallis, Krugenstern, Kotzebue, Dumont d'Urville, and Beechy.

The *Indian Ocean* may be defined as bounded southward by an imaginary line drawn from the Cape of Good Hope to the southernmost extremity of Tasmania. Its other limits are, Australia, the Indian Archipelago, Hindustan, Persia, Arabia, and Africa. It bifurcates, at Cape Comorin, into an eastern and a western branch—the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea respectively. In latitude it extends from 30° N. to 43° 35' S.; and in longitude, from 18° 29' to 146° 12' E. Its broad expanse is besprinkled with myriads of isles.

From a remote antiquity it was employed as a channel of communication between Arabia and Hindustan; but to Europeans it was first made known by Vasco de Gama, the Portuguese seaman, in May 1498. He again visited it in 1502-3.

The *Antarctic Ocean* holds the same relation to the south as the Arctic Ocean to the north pole. It is sometimes called the Southern Ocean, and comprises all the sea to the south of the Atlantic, the Indian, and the Pacific oceans. The most northerly isles comprised within its boundaries are New Georgia, at the mouth of the Atlantic, with its cliffs of eternal ice and snow; and Kerguelen's Land at the mouth of the Indian Ocean, whose sombre aspect is epigrammatically described by its secondary title of “The Island of Desolation.”

The dreary Antarctic has been explored by Cook, Kerguelen, Wilkes, and Sir James Ross. The southernmost limit reached as yet is only 79°. Owing to the formidable difficulties of its navigation, it is less known than any other region of our globe; far less known than the Frozen Ocean of the north.] †

\* Tennyson, “Locksley Hall.”

† [Captain Cook discovered Sandwich Land in 1772-75; Captain Smith, of the brig *William*, New South Shetland, 1819; Captain Billingshausen discovered Peter's Island and the coast of Alexander the First; Captain Weddel, the Southern Orcades; Captain Bisco, Enderby's Land and Graham's Land, in 1832; Admiral d'Urville, La Terre d'Adélie, 1841; and Sir James Ross, Victoria Land (lat. 70° 31' S., and long. 165° 28' E.); in the same year.]