

UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY.

VOL. I.

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GEOGRAPHY,

OR

A DESCRIPTION

OF

ALL THE PARTS OF THE WORLD,

ON A NEW PLAN,

ACCORDING TO THE GREAT NATURAL DIVISIONS OF THE GLOBE;

ACCOMPANIED WITH

ANALYTICAL, SYNOPTICAL, AND ELEMENTARY TABLES.

BY M. MALTE-BRUN.

IMPROVED BY THE ADDITION OF THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION
DERIVED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

VOL. I.

CONTAINING THE THEORY, OR MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL, AND
POLITICAL PRINCIPLES, OF GEOGRAPHY.

SECOND EDITION.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR ADAM & CHARLES BLACK;
AND LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, & LONGMAN,
LONDON.

1834.

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NOTICE BY THE PUBLISHERS.

WHEN the translation of Malte-Brun's Geography was commenced, five volumes had been published in the original, and the remainder was expected to follow in regular succession. An unfortunate misunderstanding between the author and his bookseller delayed the publication of the volumes which treat of Europe for several years. The original being stopt, it was, of course, impossible to proceed with the translation. This delay was a source of great regret to the publishers, not only on account of the loss which it necessarily entailed upon them, but more particularly because it occasioned much disappointment and inconvenience to the subscribers to the book. After a protracted interruption, M. Malte-Brun having made arrangements with a second bookseller to publish the remainder of the book, the English publishers were enabled to proceed with the translation, but it was again for a short time interrupted by the lamented death of the author in 1826; at length, with the assistance of some of the most distinguished geographers in Paris, the work was completed in a style worthy of the reputation of its original author.

During the progress of the English translation, one of the publishers had frequent opportunities of seeing and conversing with M. Malte-Brun, who gave valuable instructions as to the manner in which it ought to be conducted. Five volumes of

the original were published under that incubus on literature, the censorship of the press during the reign of Napoleon. Nothing can more strongly demonstrate the pernicious influence of such an institution, even upon works of science, than the statement of M. Malte-Brun to one of the publishers of the English translation, that he was restrained in many instances from writing so favourably of the transactions of the British, and the British government, as he intended, lest the censors should object to the publication. He particularised one passage which the censors condemned to excision, and which was only saved on the condition that M. Malte-Brun should insert in another part of the volume an eulogium on the emperor to balance the objectionable passage. He cautioned the editor to be on his guard with respect to such passages, and also pointed out what parts of the book would require to be enlarged and corrected. M. Malte-Brun expressed himself much pleased with the English translation, and said that when he published a new edition he should avail himself of the additional information collected by the editor.

Malte-Brun's Geography began to be published in 1812, at which time many documents connected with the British settlements in the East Indies and other quarters were not accessible to the author, but by means of these and valuable recent publications, the translators were enabled greatly to improve upon the description of Asia in the original work. Very considerable additions were made to the accounts of the extensive and valuable possessions of Britain in the East Indies and the other territories accessible to the enterprise of her merchants and scientific travellers. The rapid progress of the republic of the United States, and the emancipation of South America from the dominion of Old Spain, rendered large additions to the description of America essentially necessary.

The accounts of all the other countries of Europe, except