



CONFECTIONER.

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THE WORLD

IN MINIATURE ;

EDITED BY

FREDERIC SHOBERL.

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PREFACE.

A nation embracing, according to some, one-third, according to others a fifth, or, as more moderate calculations represent, a tenth of the whole human race, would from this circumstance alone possess a strong claim to our attention, were it not on other accounts the most remarkable perhaps of any on the face of the earth. Planted, as it is

believed, soon after the flood, either by the second general progenitor of mankind, or some of his immediate descendants, in the eastern extremity of Asia, and exempted from those political convulsions, which swept away every trace of the institutions and existence of the mightiest empires of antiquity, the Chinese early raised themselves to the highest degree of cultivation which they have ever attained. It seems to be universally admitted, that some of the most important inventions of modern Europe, inventions which have given an irresistible impulse