



BOOKSELLER .

THE WORLD
 IN MINIATURE ;
 EDITED BY
 FREDERIC SHOBERL.

China,
 CONTAINING
 ILLUSTRATIONS
 OF THE
 MANNERS, CUSTOMS, CHARACTER, AND
 COSTUMES OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT
 EMPIRE.

ACCOMPANIED BY
Thirty Coloured Engravings.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

The proper study of mankind is man.—POPE.

LONDON:
 PRINTED FOR R. ACKERMANN, REPOSITORY
 OF ARTS, STRAND ;
And to be had of all Booksellers.

LONDON :
Green, Leicester Street, Leicester Square

CHINA

In Miniature.

A BOOKSELLER'S STALL.

There are in China booksellers who keep shops like those of Europe ; but the dealer represented in this engraving is what we should call a hawker, who sells no works of utility or importance, but merely novels, or collections of songs adapted to the use of the lower classes. The Chinese novels are, in general, instructive and amusing, and their songs chiefly turn on rules of politeness, the duties of civil life, and moral precepts.

The books sold at the stalls are usually covered with a kind of paste-board of a gray or yellow colour. Those kept in the shops are in more costly bindings of fine satin or flowered silk. Some are bound in red brocade, sprinkled with flowers of gold or silver, and have their titles in gold letters, not on the back, but on the exterior flat surface of the cover. It is a curious fact, that the books in the royal library at the Escorial in Spain, are lettered on the cut edges of the leaves, because Arias Montanus, the original owner of this library, by whom it was presented to the king, was very near-sighted, and found it easier to read the titles in large characters on the edge than in