

To our modern ideas there is an excessive quaintness about the title-page of this ancient geographical horn-book, and the reader will hardly be able to repress a smile when he arrives at the words, "Written originally in High Dutch . . . and now faithfully translated." The translator, however, was an honest man; had he lived now-a-days, he would, if necessary translate also, no doubt, but he would never tell everybody about it. Not he,—he would simply announce that he had "received valuable assistance from various sources," make some change in the arrangement, secure a copyright, and get F.R.G.S.'d for his trouble.

In the preface, the translator says, "Not only Children are for the Generality brought up without the least idea of it [Geography], but grown Persons, and too many even of the better Sort of People very seldom if ever entertain a Thought of improving themselves in a Branch of Learning which is as easy as 'tis advantageous. From hence it arises, that they read and tell of remote Countries, without the least adequate Idea of their Situation, Nature, Climate, &c., and by Consequence are too apt to make gross Blunders in that Respect. I once heard, I remember, an elderly Gentleman ask a Native of *Russia* very gravely, whether *Leghorn* did not lie in the direct Road from *London* to *Moscow*."

To these remarks by "J. Cowley, Geographer to his Majesty," no one will offer any objection, and we must all unite in saying how deeply grieved we are to know that yet "too many even of the better Sort" "make very gross Blunders in that Respect."

Mr. Cowley also bemoaned that "no *Introduction to Geography* has been attempted yet in a familiar Way, in the English Language." . . . "This apparent Neglect induced me to translate the following Treatise for the Use of our British Youth, which I dare

affirm to be the most compleat, and instructive of that Kind in any Language whatever." From the foregoing quotations it will be seen that *our Geography* is one that speaks with authority, and that in 1742 it probably had no superior, if it even had an equal, and that its information was, without doubt, the very best available at that time in England.

Passing Portugal, Spain and France, which in this order precede Mr. Cowley's own country, we come at last to Great Britain, and in answer to the first question, "Why is this Country called Britannia?" we have the very instructive reply given: "Principally because the Britons were the first Possessors of it. It was a Custom among them to stain their bodies with sky-blue. . . . Camden says it received its Name from thence, the Term Britain, signifying in their language *colouring*."

The description of London recalls to mind a now obsolete meaning of "curiosity." "At the Eastern Part of London is the Tower where there are a great many curiosities exposed to publick View; such as the Mint, the two Armories, the Regalia, &c." "Exposed to publick View," in such a connection is at least quaint.

Neither on the map, nor in the reading-matter do we find any allusion to the "World's Toy Shop," Birmingham, and although on the former Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and "Leverpool" are laid down, they are not considered worth noticing as places of any account. So far as Yorkshire is concerned, the three chief towns are York, Hull, and Richmond; and under the sub-heading "County of Lancaster" we read "The Place of most Note is Lancaster, in which there is a fine Castle, notwithstanding it is but a small one." A somewhat odd reason is given for the abundance, which according to Mr. Cowley, was to be found in Newcastle-upon-Tyne