

tion so disunited and so unlettered as the *Tartars*: I mean that, which *Europeans* improperly call *Persia*, the name of a single province being applied to the whole Empire of *Iran*, as it is correctly denominated by the present natives of it, and by all the learned *Muselmans*, who reside in these *British* territories. To give you an idea of its largest boundaries, agreeably to my former mode of describing *India*, *Arabia* and *Tartary*, between which it lies, let us begin with the source of the great *Assyrian* stream, *Euphrates*, (as the *Greeks*, according to their custom, were pleased to miscall the *Forat*) and thence descend to its mouth in the Green Sea, or *Persian Gulf*, including in our line some considerable districts and towns on both sides of the river; then, coasting *Persia*, properly so named, and other *Iranian* provinces; we come to the delta of the *Sindhu* or *Indus*; whence ascending to the mountains of *Cashghar*, we discover its fountains and those of the *Jaihun*, down which we are conducted to the *Caspian*, which formerly it entered, though it lose itself now in the sands and lakes of *Khwārezm*: we next are led from the sea of *Khozar*, by the banks of the *Cur*, or *Cyrus*, and along the *Caucasian* ridges, to the shore of the *Euxine*, and thence, by the several *Grecian* seas, to the point whence we took our departure, at no considerable distance from the *Mediterranean*. We cannot but include the lower *Asia* within this outline, because it was unquestionably a part of the *Persian*, if not of the old *Assyrian* Empire; for we know, that it was under the dominion of *CAIKHOSRAU*; and *DIOBORUS*, we find, asserts, that the kingdom of *Troas* was dependent on *Assyria*, since *FRIAM* implored and obtained succours from his Emperor *TEUTAMES*, whose name approaches nearer to *TAHMU'RAS*, than to that of any other *Assyrian* monarch. Thus may we look on *Iran* as the noblest *Island*, (for so the *Greeks* and the *Arabs* would have called it), or at least noblest *peninsula*, on this habitable globe; and if *M. BAILLY* had fixed on it as the *Atlantis* of *PLATO*, he might have supported his opinion with far stronger arguments than any, that he had adduced in favor of *New Zembla*: if the account, indeed, of the *Atlantes* be not purely an *Egyptian* or *Utopian* fable, I should be more inclined to place them in *Iran* than in any region, with which I am acquainted.

It may seem strange, that the ancient history of so distinguished an Empire should be yet so imperfectly known; but very satisfactory reasons may be assigned for our ignorance of it: the principal of them are the superficial knowledge of the *Greeks* and *Jews*, and the loss of *Persian* archives or historical compositions. That the *Grecian* writers before *XENOPHON*, had no acquaintance with *Persia*, and that all their accounts of it are wholly fabulous, is a paradox too extravagant to be seriously maintained; but their connection with it in war or peace had, indeed, been generally confined to bordering kingdoms under feudatory princes; and the first *Persian* Emperor, whose life and character they seem to have known with tolerable accuracy, was the great *CYRUS*, whom I call, without fear of contradiction, *CAIKHOSRAU*; for I shall then only doubt that the *KHOSRAU* of *FIRDAUSI* was the *CYRUS* of the first *Greek* historian, and the Hero of the oldest political and moral romance, when I doubt that *LOUIS Quatorze* and *LEWIS the Fourteenth* were one and the same *French King*: it is utterly incredible, that two different princes of *Persia* should each have been born in a foreign and hostile territory; should each have been doomed to death in his infancy.