

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHY is the science which teaches the natural and artificial divisions of the earth's surface, the relative positions, the productions and curiosities of countries, and the manners and customs of their inhabitants.

The two first of these objects are mechanical in their nature, and can only be taught by mechanical means; but the acquirement of the others depends wholly on reading, and on the powers of the memory. In other words we become acquainted with the divisions of the earth's surface, and with the situation of places, by means of maps and globes, which are mechanical contrivances: and with the productions, curiosities, and inhabitants of countries, by means of books of voyages and travels.

The practice of projecting maps correctly and scientifically, which we have subjoined to this work, has been greatly improved and enlarged; and as this method may be learned in a few short lessons, youth may easily be taught to project maps with precision; it is, however, better to draw them in any manner, even to trace them upon transparent paper, rather than omit the practice altogether. A real proficiency may soon be made in geographical knowledge, by drawing or tracing maps in any manner, and the same degree of knowledge could never be acquired by any other means.

To pursue this system of instruction, while the student is employed in copying maps, he should be