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READINGS FROM AN OLD GEOGRAPHY.

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IT may not be uninteresting to the readers of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY to compare the state of geographical knowledge during the earlier half of the eighteenth century with its present condition near the close of the nineteenth. At first sight many of the statements with regard to foreign countries may provoke a smile, but when it is considered that even so recently as one hundred and fifty years ago, distances were practically from ten to twenty times greater than at present, and that the "good folk" of, say, 1730 were not so intensely matter-of-fact as the "citizens" of 1880, we may feel that after all it is no great wonder to find how readily bug-a-boo tales recited by sailors were accepted by the common people, and learned travellers' romances by the more educated. Not only may we gather from old sources a good deal that goes to shew how credulous and superstitious our forefathers were, but

there is much in other respects brought vividly before us with reference to the growth of cities, the discovery and settlement of colonies, the changes in "marche" lines, and various tit-bits of an interesting, or merely curious, but withal, amusing character.

The work from which it is proposed to make extracts is entitled:

"GEOGRAPHY, by way of question and answer, principally designed for the use of schools. In two parts. Containing (1) an explication of the sphere . . . ; (2) a general description . . . To which is added a complete set of maps. Written originally in High Dutch by the late celebrated Mr. Hubner, and now faithfully translated with additions and improvements. Carefully revised and corrected, by J. Cowley, Geographer to his Majesty. London: Printed for T. Cox, at the Lamb and the Looking Glass, over against S. Magnus Church, London Bridge. MDCCXLII."