

Pole, and is bounded, on the south, by the Arctic Circle, and the northern shores of the two continents. The Atlantic and Arctic Oceans may be called the Western Basin, which forms a channel between the Old and New Worlds.

The Ocean, which is thus subdivided, is spread over nearly seven-tenths of the globe; but it is remarkable how unequally the land and water are distributed. If we compare the northern and southern hemispheres, that is, the two equal parts into which the globe is divided by the equator, we shall find, that, if the quantity of land in the northern hemisphere be represented by 16, the quantity in the southern will be scarcely equal to 5. Buffon, and some other philosophers, therefore, asserted, that a great continent must exist toward the South Pole, in order to counterbalance the mass of land in the northern hemisphere; but the high southern latitudes have as yet been found to contain only a few islands. This fact, however, does not prove that there is a less mass of weight of land in the southern than in the northern hemisphere; for it is possible that the land may be only rather depressed in the south, and consequently covered by the sea.

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### MOUNTAINS.

Mountains are distributed in various forms and sizes through every region of the globe, and serve as a sort of connecting-band to the other portions of the earth's surface. The larger mountains are generally arranged in immense chains, which extend, in nearly the same direction, for several hundreds, and even thousands of miles. The highest in the world are the Himalayas, in the north of Bengal, on the borders of Tibet. The loftiest mountain in this range, is stated to be about 27,000 feet, or a little more than five miles, in perpendicular height, and is visible at the distance of 230 miles. Next to the Himalayas, are the Andes, in South America, which extend more than 4,000 miles