

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHY is a description of the world, with its inhabitants and productions. It is not only an entertaining and curious, but highly useful study. It opens and enlarges the mind; gives a true knowledge of the various situations of countries, with their rivers, mountains, &c.; and is of such importance in history, that without it, nothing can be understood with either satisfaction or correctness.

It must have attracted the attention of mankind at a very early period. The desire to become acquainted with the country they lived in, and to determine and establish its boundaries, would naturally direct their attention to it.

The study of Geography will enable young persons, when they hear of distant countries, to tell where they are situated—what are their productions—how they are governed, and what kind of people live there. To know these things is very important, and will give all who are acquainted with them an advantage over those who possess not such knowledge: it will be a satisfaction to themselves and to their parents; and will be a proof that they have attended well to their studies.

TO THE PUPIL.

The engraving on the opposite page is a picture of one side of our earth, as it would appear if seen from a great distance. It rolls like an immense ball through the heavens, surrounded on every side by the planets and the countless myriads of stars, all performing their stated motions under the guidance of the great Creator who first called them into existence.

Men live on, and are constantly walking about, this great ball, the earth. Cities and towns are built on it; trees and plants grow on it, and ships sail on the sea: yet the earth is all the time turning round and round, as if you rolled a ball or an apple on the floor, or threw it from you into the air. All this is true; but it is hard to understand. It is done by the power of God, who made us, and all things on the earth, with the sun, the moon, and the vast multitude of stars we see in the sky. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth the heavens, and all the host of them." Gen. I. II.