## ELEMENTS OF GEOGRAPHY.

The periscii are those who inhabit that part of the globe within the polar circles, or frigid zones. These have their shadows every way, while the sun is above their horizon, all the twenty-four hours as it is several months in the year when the sun is on that side the equator next them.

## The different Positions of the Sphere.

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BY the revolution of the earth on its axis, the sun, moon, and stars seem, to a spectator on the equator, to rise perpendicularly or at right angles to the horizon ; but obliquely or slant-wise to one at Dublin or any place more or less distant from the equator, except at the two poles, where the seem to move parallel to the horizon . And hence there are said to be three positions of the Sphere, viz. a RIGHT, OBLIQUE, and PA-RALEL. The RIGHT SPHERE belongs tohim on the equator ; and the OBLIQUE, to one in either hemisphere, except at the poles where it is a parallel sphere. By rectifying the globe for the equator, the pole, or any intermediate place, and turning it around, a clear illustration of the three positions of the Sphere is easily exhibited.

LATITUDE.] The latitude of a place is its distance from the equator, north or south-The greatest latitude is that of the poles, which are ninety degrees distant from the equator. The elevation of the pole above the horizon, is always equal to the latitude of the place; for to a person situated on the equator, both poles will reft in the horizon. If you travel one, two or more degrees north, the north pole will rise one, two or more degrees, and will keep pace with your distance from the equator.

LONGITUDE.] Every place on the surface of the earth has its meridian. The LONGI-TUDE of a place, is the distance of its meridian from some other fixed meridian, measured on the equator. Longitude is either east or west. All places cast of the fixed or first meridian, are in east longitude ; all west, in west longitude. On the equator, a degree of longitude; is equal to sixty geographical miles; and of course, a minute on the equator is equal to sixty miles-But as all the meridians cut the equator at right angels and approach nearer and nearer to each other, until at last the cross at the poles, it is obvious that the degrees of longitude will lessen as you go from the equator to either pole; sothat in the sixtieth degree of latitude? a degree of longitude is but thirty miles, or half as long as a degree on the equator ; as is evident from. the following table.

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