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## **MODERN GEOGRAPHY.**\*

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- Standard - Charles

## I.-INTRODUCTION.

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1. THE figure of the earth is nearly that of a globe or sphere.<sup>+</sup>

2. In Geography and Astronomy, certain circles are supposed to be described on the sphere. Of these, any one whose plane<sup>†</sup> passes through the centre, and which therefore divides the sphere into equal parts, or hemispheres, is called a *great circle*. All others are called *small* or *less circles*.

3. If the circumference of a circle be divided into 360 equal parts, each of them is called a *degree*. Each degree is subdivided into 60 equal parts, called *minutes*; and each minute into 60 equal parts, called

\* 1. Geography is a description of the earth; and is distinguished by different names, according to the nature of the subject considered. Mathematical Geography treats of the figure and magnitude of the earth, of the latitudes and longitudes of places; and of globes, maps, and other stillicial contrivances and instruments for illustration. This part of Geography is connected, in a considerable degree, with Astronomy, especially when it is made to comprehend the consideration of the earth as a planet. Physical Geography treats of the materials of which the earth is composed; of the forms of the various parts of its surface; of the atmosphere; of climate; of the various productions, animal and vegetable, found on its surface; and of other particulars respecting its natural condition. Political Geography treats of laws, modes of government; religion, learning, customs, and other subjects arising from the agency of man considered as a faceal and political being. Other names which are constinue, forms of so are easily understood from the terms. \* 2. A slobe or subsets is a body of such a figure, that all points of the surface are

+ 2. A slobe or sphere is a body of such a figure, that all points of the surface are equally distant from a point within it called the centre. The earth's diameter, or the line passing from one side to the other through the centre, is 7913 British miles.

\$ 3. A plane is a flat surface. The plane of a circle of the sphere is the section by which the sphere may be conceived to be cut through the circumference of the circle; and may be horizontal or vertical, or inclined in any way whatever.