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TO THE  
AMERICAN EDITION.

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THE object and plan of the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF GEOGRAPHY* have been very fully set forth in the Preface to the English Edition, and the names of the editor and his collaborators are sufficient vouchers for its value. It is due, however, to the American reader, to inform him in what respects these volumes differ from the original. The whole of the English work is here given, with the single exception, that the description of Great Britain, which occupied more than one-third of the Book devoted to Europe, and considerably more than the space given to the whole of America, has been somewhat abridged; but, it is believed, without the omission of any thing of importance. The text has been carefully revised and corrected throughout, and in most cases more recent statistical details have been substituted for those of the original. The additions to the first volumes are not considerable in amount, but are generally such as have been required by changes in our knowledge or in the condition of things. The Book relating to America has been enlarged as far as the limits of the work would allow, principally by the addition of local details; the condition of the new American states is too unsettled to render it worth while to fill much space with accounts of their political relations, which might be entirely changed before these pages met the eye of the reader. The Chapter which treats of the United States has been written anew, the original being extremely imperfect and incorrect, as all European treatises on the subject are.—Our growth is so rapid, the increase of our population, wealth, commerce, manufactures, and other industrial resources, so amazing, the creation of new towns, cities, nay, states, is continually making such a change