with the northern centre, and as such, it will be noted, that *absolute* direction East and West changes with every change in the longitude of a geographical position. This point may be more clear from a simple experiment represented by Figure I. Let a pin be placed so as to secure a string in the centre of a table, and a pencil, or small stick, fastened to the string so as to be at right angles to it when held taut. The pin represents the northern magnetic centre, the string, direction North and South

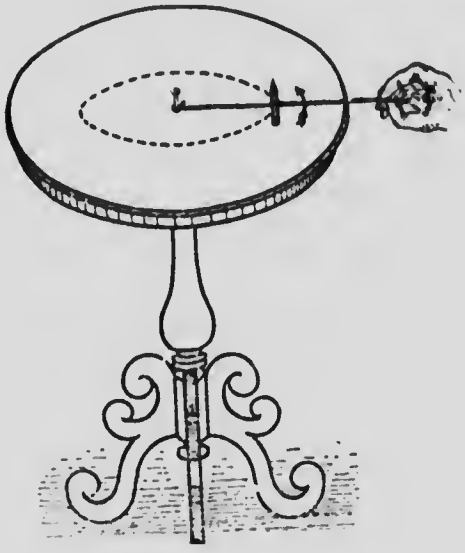

FIG. 1.

in the magnetic meridian, and the pencil, direction East and West. Now in walking with the string around the table, you will observe that your string is always North and South, and your direction of motion, while constantly changing, is, nevertheless, always East or West. On returning to your starting point, you will have completed a 'circumnavigation' of the table in an easterly, or westerly course.

Now the Earth might actually be circumnavigated in easterly, or westerly directions, at all latitudes, if no spaces of land, or ice, intervened on the courses; and by such circumnavigation