

# ABRIDGMENT OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY.

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## PRELIMINARY NOTIONS.

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### 1.—OF THE EARTH.

**1. Geography.**—Geography is a science which gives a description of the earth.

**2. Form of the earth.**—The earth is almost round; the form being that of a ball, or globe, a little flattened at the poles.

**3. Size of the earth.**—The circumference of the earth is about 25,000 miles. The diameter, or thickness, nearly 8,000 miles.

**4. Motions of the earth.**—The earth turns round in the space of 24 hours, or one day; this is called its diurnal rotation. It has also another motion round the sun, in the space of a year; this is called the annual revolution.

**5. Axis.**—The axis is an imaginary line round which the earth turns in its diurnal rotation.

**6. Poles.**—The Poles are the two extremities of the axis. The northern extremity is called the Arctic, or North Pole; the southern extremity, the Antarctic, or South Pole. At the Poles, the earth is covered with enormous masses of ice, which render those regions uninhabitable.

**7. Maps.**—A map is a plan, or representation of the earth's surface or some part of it. There are three kinds of maps: 1st. the Map of the World, which represents the whole of the earth's surface; 2d. General Maps which represent some one of the five grand divisions of the world; 3d. Particular Maps, which represent a country, a county, &c.