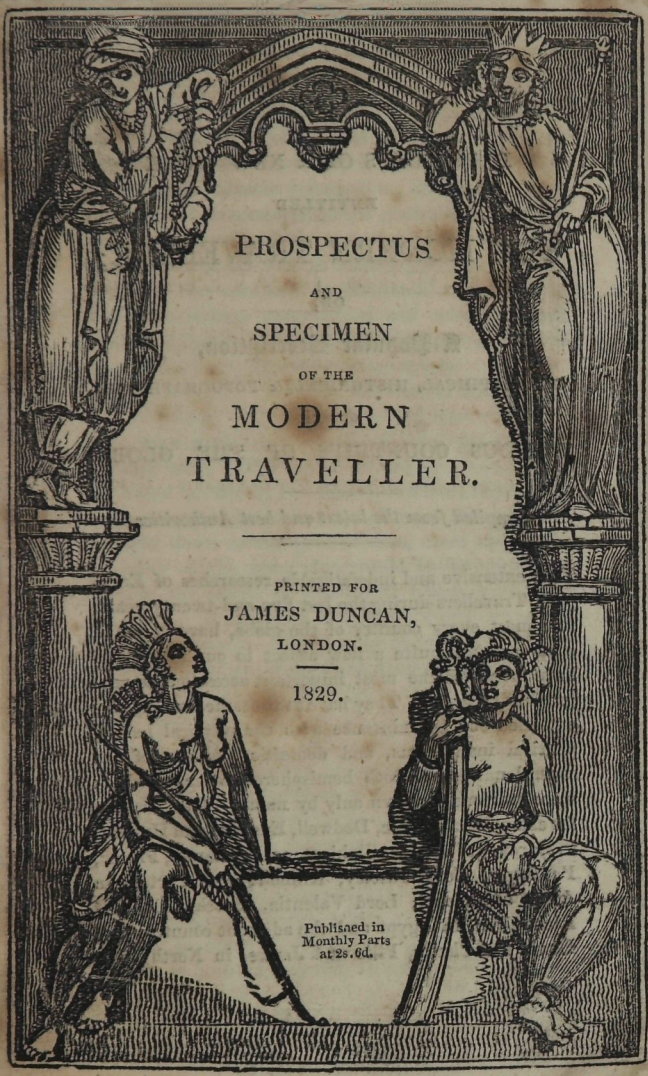

PROSPECTUS

AND

SPECIMEN

OF THE

MODERN TRAVELLER.

PRINTED FOR
JAMES DUNCAN,
LONDON.

1829.

Published in
Monthly Parts
at 2s. 6d.

PROSPECTUS OF A NEW WORK

ENTITLED

THE MODERN TRAVELLER;

OR,

A Popular Description,

GEOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, & TOPOGRAPHICAL,

OF THE

VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBE.

Compiled from the latest and best Authorities.

THE extensive and indefatigable researches of European Travellers during the last five-and-twenty years, in almost every country of the globe, have given in some instances quite a new aspect to our maps, and have furnished the most important accessions to geographical science. They have at the same time equally extended our acquaintance with the physical habits, political institutions, and domestic manners of the several nations of both hemispheres, some of which were previously known only by name. The Travels, for example, of Clarke, Dodwell, Eustace, and Hughes, in Europe; of Morier, Elphinstone, Buchanan, Fraser, Pottinger, Gore Ouseley, Kinneir, and Porter, in Asia; of Belzoni, Lord Valentia, Burckhardt, and Richardson, in Egypt and the adjacent countries; of Lewis and Clarke, Pike and James, in North Ame-

rica; of Luccock, Mawe, and Von Spix, in Brazil; of Humboldt, in Mexico; and of many others, too numerous to mention,—comprise an immense mass of curious and valuable information, diffused through costly works, inaccessible to the generality of readers, and forming collectively a moderate library. The transactions of the various Missionary Societies, also, include a very considerable portion of novel information of a strictly geographical and scientific kind, frequently presenting to us savage and uncivilised man under a new and interesting aspect.

With a view to compress this fund of entertaining matter within narrower limits, different collections have been made of the more popular works, on a reduced scale. The series of voyages and travels published in 1800 by Dr. Mavor, extended to no fewer than twenty-eight volumes; and were the collection brought down to the present date, more than twice as many on the same plan would be insufficient to include the works of reputation which have since appeared. Pinkerton's collection forms seventeen volumes in quarto. But, besides the objection to such collections, which arises from their bulk and costliness, they are necessarily liable to that of incompleteness. Some of the best works are the exclusive copyright of individuals. Others, which may be of too scientific a character to be generally interesting, or which may be excluded as of inferior merit, contain details of the most important kind. And there is this further objection to collections, that, in giving the journals of more travellers than one over the same territory, repetition is inevitable; and sometimes conflicting statements occur, which require to be investigated, in order to determine which is the more correct, or how far they may be reconciled.

To obviate these difficulties, and, at the same time, realise the object of compressing and arranging this various mass of information in a popular form, it is proposed to publish a digested account of each separate country, comprising its geographical features, its manners, customs, polity, &c., as they may be gathered from the collective works of the best English and Foreign travellers. The labour employed in such analysis will obviously be immense, and the cost of the materials considerable; but the Proprietor has resolved to spare neither pains nor expense to render the work as comprehensive and complete as possible,—so that it may form, in fact, a depository for the collective stores of our modern explorators and topographers; and present, if the expression may be allowed, a series of *cosmoramic* views of the actual state of the various countries. The publication is obviously designed to be of a popular and useful, rather than of a scientific character; and with this view, authentic anecdotes, serving to illustrate national character, and other amusing details, will be freely admitted. At the same time the most studious attention will be paid to topographical accuracy; and it will be an object carefully kept in view, to rectify the mistakes which are to be found in the most popular geographical works. Maps will be given on a small scale, but modelled on the best authorities, so as to include the latest discoveries. Brief historical notices will also be prefixed to the description of every country, including its ancient geography, its supposed aborigines, and the principal revolutions of which it has been the theatre. And, with respect to the uncivilised portions of the habitable continent, the sketch will exhibit the progress of discovery. So far as possible, its natural history, botany, geological features, vol-

canic phenomena, and other natural curiosities, will be fully described; together with the costume, physiognomy, and domestic habits of the natives; their traditions, religion, and literature; their public buildings, arts, and ancient monuments: in fact, all the multifarious information for which we are indebted to the indefatigable researches of modern Travellers.

It might, perhaps, give attraction to the work, to throw the whole into the form of fictitious narrative and imaginary travels; and the seductive model of the Travels of Anacharsis has led many modern writers to attempt this plan. But it has been judged, in the present instance, far more expedient, as well as more consistent with the design of the work, to adhere to literal fact and real authorities, and not to aim at imparting a fictitious charm to descriptions and observations intrinsically interesting alike to the physiologist, the politician, and the general reader.

CONDITIONS.

I. The Work will appear in Monthly Parts, price Two Shillings and Sixpence each. It will be printed on the finest Paper, and the Type will be the same as is used in this Prospectus. Two Parts to form a Volume.

II. Each Country will occupy a Part or Parts, according to the interest of the subject, so as to form a distinct Work.

III. Every Number will be illustrated with a Map of the Country, compiled from the best and latest Authorities, or some other elegant embellishment; * and occasionally, when the subject requires it, additional Plates will be given, without charge.

IV. The Countries will not be published in strict geographical order; but directions will be given, together with general Titles, at the conclusion of the Work.

---

* Hitherto two have been given; and the Publisher is happy to say, from the encouragement he has met with, he is enabled to promise that, in general, each Part will continue to have two Plates.

The following have been selected from numerous notices of the MODERN TRAVELLER, *all of which have recommended the plan and execution of the Work:*

[FROM THE LITERARY GAZETTE, DEC. 6, 1828.]

"We have already had frequent occasion to notice this work in its progress, and always with admiration of its merits—the extraordinary quantity of intelligence condensed into its pages, the extensive and interesting nature of its researches, and the spirit and taste by which its Editor contrived to render the necessary details of his learned and laborious performance fully as entertaining as if he had written it with a view to pass away the lighter hours of his reader.

"For the graver student, who desires in his library to trace the track of the more adventurous wanderers through the earth, this work contains the amplest and most accurate materials. The statistics, geology, natural history, and the general peculiarities and powers of the different great regions of the earth, are given with striking diligence and extent of information. For the wanderer himself, we know no such companion; its portability rendering it convenient for all, however limited in point of room, its variety animated and amusing, and its accuracy and research superseding the whole ponderous freight of partial, imperfect, or contradictory tours, which make the encumbrance and the perplexity of every traveller who is careless enough of his own comfort to encumber himself with them. We speak within the most cautious bounds, when we say, that in any one volume of this work, the traveller will find more of the actual material of which he stands in need—the real, distinct, matter-of-fact information—than in any ten "voyages and travels" to the same region. Its size allows it to be carried in his pocket;

its publication in separate parts permits the description of every region to be complete, from Poland to Peru; and the simplicity and fulness of its arrangement renders more voluminous authorities almost totally unnecessary.

"But while to the individual traveller separate portions may be chiefly of immediate value, to the general student, the public teacher, the mother instructing her children, the father looking for the very best order of family reading for his winter fire-side, the military library, whether in garrison or on service, the sea-officer's cabin,—the whole series offers a gratification and a use, which we know not where else they could find; but, above all, this division is of itself the most valuable publication with which the voyage to India could be amused and instructed, whether by merchant, civil or military officer, cadet, or female passenger.

"In our limited space, we must confine ourselves to a statement of the points which render this portion of the *Modern Traveller* of peculiar importance. It contains a very minute and comprehensive history of India, which is to be found complete in no other work. The several histories which have hitherto appeared limit themselves to separate parts of the country or its dynasties. Thus we have histories of British India, Mahometan India, Central India, &c.; whereas the present work combines the facts of all, descending from the earliest period of the ancient annals to the year 1823. The authorities are always given, so that the reader desirous of extending his researches on particular points, is furnished with a guide; and, by the Editor's notices of the discrepancies and respective characters of the several writers, the chance of error, in following a peculiar guide, is nearly extinguished.

"Of the minuteness of this history, the best judgement may be formed from its extent. In the usual manner of printing, it would fill three large octavo volumes. The contents of the four volumes exhibit a singular industry in the collection, and condensation in the quantity, of valuable matter."

[FROM THE FOREIGN REVIEW.]

"The portion on Turkey in the Modern Traveller, contains the united excellences of every writer, past and present, on this important subject, and cannot be too frequently consulted for correctness of information perspicuously delivered. This observation, indeed, applies to the whole body of that work, which, taken altogether, is not exceeded by any similar publication throughout Europe; and reflects great credit on the spirit of the Publisher, and the correct taste, deep reading, and patient industry of the Editor."

[FROM BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.]

"In our Papers on Greece, we have looked occasionally to the Works of the individuals on whose fidelity and knowledge we had most reason to rely. But, for the reader's purpose of obtaining a view at once general and minute, animated and important, we can name nothing superior to the two little volumes of 'Greece,' contained in the Modern Traveller; a publication which, amounting to fifteen pocket volumes, already contains more information of the actual state of the world, than perhaps any other in existence. Its merit is, that it is not a compilation of the writings of modern travellers, but a combination of their various knowledge, checked and often increased by the accuracy and information of the intelligent Editor. It deserves a place in the library of every inquiring person, who desires to become acquainted with the latest state

of nations, without the trouble of turning over a multitude of voyages and statistical works, naturally imperfect and partial, and, of course, sometimes contradictory and untrue."

[FROM THE NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.]

"Of this valuable little work (still in course of publication) ten volumes have been produced; the last being an account of Russia*—which at the present moment comes rather opportunely. Judging from the portion of the series which we have read, namely the volume just mentioned, and the description of Palestine, we are induced to recommend the work as a very agreeable compendium of all that has been brought to light by the enterprise of modern travellers for the last five-and-twenty years. This, it must be confessed, is a most desirable thing; and the sphere of its usefulness is greatly enlarged by the very cheap rate at which the purchaser is enabled to acquire so much knowledge. Of all reading, there is none so interesting as Voyages and Travels. The imagination is stirred, and curiosity is stimulated, as by the marvels of a fanciful tale, while at the same time the mind is enriched by truth and by solid acquisitions, including a portion, more or less, of many species of knowledge; as for instance, of geography, geology, astronomy, history, botany, politics, morals, and of the character of man, as modified by difference of climate and government. Nothing, indeed, can be more fascinating than to become acquainted at one's ease, and by the comfort of one's own fire-side, with the strange scenery, and stranger inhabitants, manners, and customs of distant countries, over which the traveller, whose adventures you are reading, seems to wander with all the dignity, and not a few of the

* For the Countries published since, see the last page of this Prospectus.

sufferings and vicissitudes of the hero of a roman e. How many wild and remote lands have been laid open, as it were, to the inspection of the curious, by the researches of such men as Clarke, Dodwell, Morier, Elphinstone, Belzoni, Buckingham, Lord Valentia, Henniker, Burckhardt, Lewis, and Clarke, Luccock, Mawe, Humboldt, and many others! yet their information being spread over books too costly and too diffuse, is beyond the reach of either the time or the money of the general reader. In the present work, however, the really valuable matter in the intelligence of these travellers has been collected, compared, and condensed by the Editor, and is laid before the Reader in a newly-written narrative, distinguished by great labour of investigation, and by a singularly clear and entertaining manner. It reminds us of the summing up of a skilful judge, when the various evidence in a case is simplified and luminously detailed in his own words, except in an occasional instance or two, where the identical expressions of a witness have been worthy to be preserved on account of their force and character, which might be injured by translation. The printing of the work deserves praise; and that nothing may be wanting, maps, and plates of views and costume (on a small scale, of course) are given."

[FROM THE EXAMINER.]

"To bring within a moderate compass, in regard to size and price, the valuable information spread through the many bulky and swelled-out volumes in which modern travellers have generally deposited their somewhat diffuse details, is a work of such obvious utility for all classes, and of such particular importance to those whose time and money are inadequate to the consulting of the original sources, that a compilation on this plan could not possibly fail of success, however

indifferently done. Indeed, when we saw the announcement of the Modern Traveller, we felt some apprehension lest security of a profitable result might tempt the conductors to slur the execution, and that thus the demand might be in a great measure supplied by an incorrect and mischievous publication. We have, however, recently seen the volumes already published, and are gratified to find that there is no foundation for our fears. As far as we are competent judges, the Modern Traveller is compiled with industry and judgment,—giving ample details where abridgment would seriously diminish the interest of the narrative (as in the most delightful parts of the conquest of Mexico by Cortez), and taking a rapid view of the least instructive periods of history and the drier details of description. The work is now in course of publication, a half-crown number appearing every month, and a volume being given to each country: and whether we regard the plan, the judicious compilation, the extremely neat printing, or the useful maps, and illustrative prints of costume, &c., it may be emphatically called a 'nice little book.' "

[FROM THE ASIATIC JOURNAL.]

" We feel ourselves justified in recommending this work to our readers, as promising to be the most judicious and interesting publication of the kind that has ever fallen under our notice."

[FROM THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW.]

" This is an excellent geographical work, compiled with much industry, learning and intelligence. Though printed with neatness, and forming an elegant series of little volumes, we still think that its intrinsic merit entitled it to a more dignified form."

THE

MODERN TRAVELLER.

†‡† *The various Countries, as completed, may be had in boards, price 5s. 6d. per volume; neatly half-bound and lettered, 6s. per volume; or calf gilt extra, 7s. per volume.*

ALREADY PUBLISHED:—

PALESTINE; or, the HOLY LAND. PARTS I. and II. One Volume.

SYRIA and ASIA MINOR. PARTS III. to VI. Two Volumes.

BRAZIL and BUENOS AYRES. PARTS VII. to X. Two Volumes.

MEXICO and GUATIMALA. PARTS XI. to XIV. Two Volumes.

COLOMBIA, PARTS XV. and XVI One Volume.

ARABIA. PARTS XVII. and XVIII. One Volume.

RUSSIA. PARTS XIX. and XX. One Volume.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL. PARTS XXI. to XXIV. Two Volumes.

BIRMAN EMPIRE. PARTS XXV. and XXVI. One Volume.

GREECE. PARTS XXVII. to XXX. Two Volumes.

TURKEY. PARTS XXXI. & XXXII. One Volume.

EGYPT, NUBIA, and ABYSSINIA. PARTS XXXIII. to XXXVI. Two Volumes.

PERSIA and CHINA. PARTS XXXVII. to XL. Two Volumes.

INDIA. PARTS XLI. to XLVIII. Four Volumes.

AFRICA, NORTH AMERICA, CHILI, PERU, &c. will appear in succession.

W. CLOWES, LONDON.