

THE WORLD
IN MINIATURE;
EDITED BY
FREDERIC SHOBERL.

Hindoostan,

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE RELIGION, MANNERS,
CUSTOMS, TRADES, ARTS, SCIENCES,
LITERATURE, DIVERSIONS, &c.

OF

The Hindoos.

ILLUSTRATED

*With Upwards of One Hundred Coloured
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IN SIX VOLUMES.

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The proper study of mankind is man.—POPE.

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term is now generally restricted to the language spoken on the banks of the Seraswattee.

There were ten principal dialects spoken by the same number of civilised nations who occupied the provinces of Hindoostan and Deccan. Several of these dialects are still in current use. These are : 1. the Pracrit, of which we have already treated; 2. the Canyacybya, which seems to be the groundwork of the modern Hindoostanee, and which is still spoken in the villages in the interior of the country; 3. the Gaura, or Bengalee, which has some original poems, besides many translations from the Sanscrit; 4. the *Maithila*, or Tirhuctya, used in the sircar of Tirhut and

the adjoining districts; 5. the *Uruga*, spoken on the coast of *Orissa*; 6. the *Gurjera*, in *Guzerat*; 7. the *Tamul*, called by the Europeans *Malabar*, spoken from *Cape Comorin*, the southern extremity of *India*, to the 12th or 13th degree of north latitude; 8. the *Mahratta*, in which there are some treatises of logic and philosophy, besides many original poems, chiefly in honour of *Rama* and *Crishna*, and some translations from the *Sanscrit*; 9. the *Canara*, the ancient language of the *Carnatic*; 10. the *Telinga*, formerly cultivated by the poets and still spoken in the province of that name.

At the courts of the *Mahometan* princes the *Mogul* language, a mixture

of the Arabic, Tartar and Persian, is spoken. It is in the last-mentioned language that all diplomatic business between the Europeans and the Hindoo princes is transacted.