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The Modern
VOYAGER AND TRAVELLER,
THROUGH
EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, & AMERICA.

BY WTH ADAMS, M.A.

VOL. I. — AFRICA.



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IN FOUR VOLUMES.—VOLUME I.

Africa.

Plates and Maps.

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PREFACE.

THE "MODERN VOYAGER and TRAVELLER through EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, and AMERICA," having been selected from the most valuable and authentic sources, is particularly adapted for such persons as do not possess the means or the opportunity of perusing expensive or voluminous statements. Avoiding all dry and uninteresting details, no incident that can amuse or interest the general reader has been overlooked, whilst every species of information connected with the advancement of science, religion, and commerce, has been preserved.

AFRICA has been chosen as the subject for the *first* Volume, from various considerations. Recent Travellers have made themselves intimately acquainted with a vast portion of this Continent; and their extensive and curious inquiries are here concentrated in a perspicuous point of view. Similar care and attention will be found to have been paid to the other three Quarters of the Globe.

In delineating the customs and manners prevailing in different parts of the World, upwards of ONE HUNDRED COLOURED SUBJECTS, exhibiting the costumes and peculiarities of the various nations described, will be introduced, which cannot fail greatly to enhance the value of this work.

In its literary department, the utmost care will be taken that no passage shall be admitted, tending, in the slightest degree, to violate that delicacy which can never be too highly respected. These volumes, therefore, being peculiarly adapted for Youth, by whom books of Voyages and Travels are generally sought after with the greatest avidity, it is presumed they will find a place in the Library of every Juvenile Seminary, where *superior* advantages, and the *extended* improvement of the Pupils, are consulted.

The Second Volume will contain *ASIA* ; the Third, *AMERICA* ; and the Fourth, *EUROPE*.

AUTHORITIES

CONSULTED FOR THIS VOLUME.

AFRICA.

AN Account of the Cape of Good Hope. By Captain Robert Percival. London, 1804.

Barrow's Second Journey into the Interior of Africa, in the years 1801, 1802, to the Residence of the Boshuana Nation, being the remotest point in the interior of Southern Africa, to which Europeans have hitherto penetrated. London, 1806.

Travels into Southern Africa, in the years 1803, 4, 5, and 6. By Henry Lichtenstein, M.D., and professor of Natural History, in the University of Berlin. Translated from the German.

Travels in South Africa, undertaken at the request of the Missionary Society. By John Campbell, Minister of Kingsland Chapel. London, 1815.

Journal of a Visit to South Africa, in 1815 and 1816; with some Account of the Settlements of the United Brethren, in the Cape of Good Hope. By the Rev. C. Latrobe.

The Narrative of Robert Adams, a Sailor, who was wrecked on the Western Coast of Africa, in 1810, and detained three years in Slavery by the Arabs of the Great Desert: he resided in the City of Tombuctoo.

An Authentic Narrative of the Loss of the Brig Commerce, wrecked on the Coast of Africa, in August, 1815; with an Account of the Sufferings of the surviving Officers and Crew, who were enslaved by the wandering Arabs of the Great African Desert, or Zahara. By James Riley, late Master and Supercargo. New York, 1818.

Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa, &c., with an Account of a subsequent Mission to that Country. By Mungo Park, Surgeon, with his last Journey.

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Letters from Tripoli, Tunis, and Malta. By E. Blaquiere, Esq. 1811.

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Travels in Nubia. By the late John Lewis Burkhardt. Published by the Association for Promoting the Discovery of the Interior Parts of Africa. London, 1819.



MODERN

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

CHAPTER I.

Various Conquerors of Africa—the Romans—the Moors, Arabs, Mahometans—The African Association—Mr. Park—Mr. Browne Hornemann—Mr. Nichols—Roentgen—Burkhardt—Mr. Legh—Captain Light—Captain Tuckey—Major Peddie—Mr. Bowdich.

IN casting an eye upon the early annals of Africa, we find that the Romans, who established their colonies on the ruins of Carthage, were in their turn overthrown by the Vandals, the Vandals by the Greeks of the Eastern Empire, the Greeks by the Arabs or Saracens, whose rapid and irresistible arms, under the caliphs, had completed the conquest of Africa about the end of the seventh century. The spirit of enthusiasm which guided the sword of the disciples of Mahomet, was a volcano whose fiery torrent destroyed what it could not change. In Africa it seems to have changed every thing; Romans, Vandals, Greeks, Goths—with their several languages, laws, religion, and literature, have all disappeared; and the recollection of the most powerful of them, is preserved only by their descendants under the name of *Roms*, as a term of reproach applied to Christians of all nations.

The Moors, so called by the Europeans, are a mixture of all nations that have at different times settled in Africa; but the predominant character, physical and moral, is that of the Arab or Saracen. The name is unknown to themselves; and if, as it is probable, this name is a corruption from that of the *Mauri*, by which the Romans designated the people of a particular province, it has long ceased to be applicable to the present inhabitants. If you ask a Moor, 'what he calls himself,' he will answer, that he is a *Mooslim*, or believer—his country, *Bled Mooslimen*, the land of believers. The Arabs distinguish themselves by the name of *Medaimen*, or townspeople. Europeans, however, are in the habit of applying indiscriminately the term *Moor*, not only to the mass of population in Northern Africa, but throughout all Asia as far as China.

Passing by former travellers, whose inquiries have not been of that equal importance of those of recent date, it is necessary to remark, that in the year 1788, several public-spirited individuals formed themselves into an association for promoting discoveries in the interior of Africa; but from a deficiency in their funds, and various unforeseen accidents, little progress was made for some time. At the end of the year 1797, Mr. Park returned from exploring the course of the Niger, and the territories situated in its vicinity; and though he failed in his attempt to reach some of the great towns that lie on the banks of that river, the information he actually obtained was found to be of the highest importance.

While Mr. Park was exploring the countries along the line of the Niger for the first time, Mr. Browne, a private gentleman, urged by a spirit of adventure, set out from Assiutt, in Egypt, with a view of getting into Darfur, a country unknown to Europeans, except from some of its natives resident in Egypt, who seemed to possess a less intolerant spirit towards

Christians than Mahomedans in general. From this point he conceived that the choice would be left him either to penetrate into Abyssinia by Kordofan, or to traverse Africa from east to west. He accordingly left Assiutt, with the Soudan caravan, on the 28th of May, 1793, passed through the greater Oasis, where the people chiefly subsist on dates, and Sheb, famous for its native alum; and arrived at Sweini, in Darfur, on the 23d of July. He soon discovered that the people here not only considered him as an infidel, but as a being of an inferior species, whose colour was the effect of disease, or the mark of divine displeasure. His Egyptian agent, whom he had brought from Cairo, not content with robbing him, infused suspicions into the mind of the sultan, who ordered him to be confined in the town of Cobbe. The only person from whom he received any kindness, was the melek of the Jalebs, who had the superintendence over the foreign merchants, he dissuaded Browne from attempting to proceed to Bergoo, on the west, on account of the jealousy between that power and Darfur; or to Senaar, through Kordufan, on the east, on account of some insurrection there; and advised him to embrace the first opportunity of returning to Egypt. The sultan's permission, however, could not be procured for this purpose, till Mr. Browne contrived to alarm the merchants of the caravan, by hinting at the danger of their appearing in Egypt without him; when, after being deprived of all his remaining property by the sultan, he was permitted to depart, and reached Assiutt in the summer of 1796, after an absence of nearly two years.

Mr. Browne for several years after remained in England, till the spirit of adventure broke forth afresh, and drew him from a state of peaceful inactivity. Humboldt's description of the Cordilleras of the Andes, excited in his breast an unconquerable