

HISTORIA MUNDI:
OR
MERCATOR'S
ATLAS.
Containing his
COSMOGRAPHICAL
Description of the *Fabricke* and
Figure of the *WORLD*.

Lately rectified in divers places, as also beautified
and enlarged with new *Mappes* and *Tables*;

By the studious industry
OR
IVDOCVS HONDY.

ENGLISHED
BY
W. S. Generosus, & Coll. Regim. Oxoniæ.

Pingitur his tabulis Orbis, simul Orbis & urbes;
Gemma sunt urbes, annulus Orbis erit.



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sight to behold. For a man of a good stature could not fathome or embrace his Thumb. And the Fingers were greater than most Statues, and when it was broke, his Belly did gape like a great Cave. This Colossus was making twelve yeeres, and three hundred Talents of Brasse went to the making of it, and within there were great stones layd, that might make the worke stand firme. The Sultan laded 700. Camels with the Brasse of this Statue.

THE



THE
KINGDOME
OF
PERSIA,
OR THE EMPIRE
OF THE SOPHI.

THE Persian or Sophian Empire, as it was renowned heretofore, so now also it is very famous. The Inhabitants are Persians. They are called also *Ayami*, or *Azami*, from the Kingdome of *Azamia*, which some thinke was heretofore called *Assyria*: they were called Persians from *Perfides*, and *Chefelbas* from the red Cap or Hatt which they used to weare. They were called Sophians from Prince *Sophor*. The Kingdome of *Persia* is situate betweene the Turkish Empire, the Tartarians, the *Zagatheans*, the Kingdome of *Cambala*, and betweene the Hircanian or Caspian Sea, and the Persian Bay. It hath thereof on the East the Indies and the Kingdome of *Cambaja*, from which it is separated and parted by the Mountaines and Defarts: on the North are the Tartars, neere the River *Albianus* or *Oxus*, the rest is enclosed with the Caspian Sea: on the West are the Turkes neere the River *Tigris*, and the Lake *Giocho*: on the South it is washed with the Persian Bay, and the Indian Sea, which is a large space of ground, for it containeth 38. degrees of longitude from the East to the West. And from the South to the North 20. degrees. Concerning the temper of the ayre of *Persia*, *Q. Curtius, Lib. 5.* writeth thus. There is no wholesommer Country in all *Asia*: for the ayre is temperate, here a continued shady Mountaine doth qualifie the heate thereof: and there it is joyned to the Sea which doth cherish it with a temperate warmth. But this Country is not all of one quality, nor of one soyle. That part which lyeth toward the Persian Bay, in regard it is watered with Rivers: and also that part toward the Caspian Sea, having pleasant Rivers, & a milde gentle Ayre, are both happy and fruitfull, and doe yeeld all kindes of fruits, and doe breed all kindes of living creatures. It hath abundance of Wheate, Barley, Millet, and the like Graine, and also Mettals and Pretious Stones, and *Pauslus Verenus* witnesseth that it hath great plenty of Wine. The other parts are desolate by reason of the heate and drynesse. Moreover the Persians were at first an obscure Nation, but they grew famous afterward by their King *Cyrus*, who having gotten the Empire *Mecidia* and *Lydia*, joyned it to *Persia*, and so having conquered *Asia*, and subdued all the

The Country

The Situation

East, he left it a faire and flourishing Kingdome. *Cambyfes* succeeded his Father, who added *Ægypte* to the Empire, after whom *Persia* continued in one Estate untill *Darius* raigned; who being conquerd by *Alexander of Macedon*, lost his life together with his Kingdome. It was governed by Kings 230. yeeres, as *Q. Curtius* affirmeth. *Lib. 4.* and the Prophet *Jeremiah* doth assent unto him at the 9. Chapter of *Daniel*. But now the Persian Empire which is subject to the great *Sophy*, is accounted one of the most potent Empires of all the East, which though it were sometimes oppressed by the Sarazens, and sometimes by the Tartars, yet it grew up againe in the raigne of King *Ismael*. The Countries which are subject to the Persian Empire are these, *Media*, *Assyria*, *Susiana*, *Mesopotamia*, *Persis*, *Parthia*, *Hyrkania*, *Margiana*, *Bactriana*, *Parapamissus*, *Aria*, *Drangiana*, *Gedrosia*, and *Carmania*. *Media* is now called *Servan*, which is situate betweene *Persia*, and the Hyrcanian Sea, it hath on the East *Hyrkania* and *Parthia*; on the West the greater *Armenia* and *Assyria*. It is divided into the greater or the Southerne, and the Northerne *Atropatia*. The latter is colder, and therefore lesse inhabited. The chiefe Citty is *Smachia*, there are moreover these Citties, *Derbet*, *Eres*, *Sechi*, and *Gravot*. The greater is more inhabited; it hath also the Citty *Tauris* which is placed at the foote of *Orontis*, being 8. dayes journey distant from the Caspian Sea. The compasse of it is almost 16. miles, in which it is supposed that there are 200000. Citizens. The Ancients did call it *E. batana*, where the Kings of *Persia* doe dwell in Summer. In the same Country there are *Turcomiani*, *Saru*, *Susian*, *Nassava*, *Ardauil*, and *Marant*. *Assyria* which is now called *Arzerum*, hath on the East *Media*, on the West *Mesopotamia*; on the North *Armenia*, on the South *Susiana*. It had heretofore these Provinces, *Arrapichites*, *Adiabena*, and *Sittaena*: the Citty *Ninive* is by *Tigris*, which is 60. miles in compasse. *Susiana* is now called *Chus* or *Cusistan*: it was so named from *Susis* a chiefe Citty, which is 15. miles in compasse, and was so called from the Lillies which grew there, as *Athenens* noterh, for *Susum* in the Persian language signifies a Lilly. *Mesopotamia*, which in Scripture is called *Padan Aram*, is now called *Diarbecha*, it is situate betweene the Rivers *Euphrates* and *Tigris*, whence it was so named, because it lyeth εν μεσω των ποταμων, or in the middle betweene two Rivers: this Country hath a divers situation: part of it the Rivers doe fertilize or make fette: part of it is dry and barren, and without Grasse, or Trees. The chiefe Citties are *Opha*, which is 7. miles in compasse, and *Caramil* which is farre greater than it being the Metropolis of *Mesopotamia*, which *Selimus* the Turkish Emperour tooke from the *Sophi*. *Merdin* is the seate of the Patriarke of *Chaldea*: and *Mofus* of the Patriarke of the Nertorianians, whose authority reacheth even to the *Indies* and *Cathaja*. In *Persidis*, which they call now *Farsi*, or *Farsitum*, there is the chiefe Citty *Siras*, which was heretofore called *Persepolis*, which was the Seate of the *Magi*. *Pliny* calls it the head Citty of the Persian Kingdome, and *Q. Curtius* the royall Palace of the East. *Hyrkania* which is now called *Grigia*, or *Corca*, or *Dargumexi*, is next unto the Caspian Sea, which is therefore called the *Hyrcanian Sea*. It hath these Citties *Hyrkana*, which the *Scythians* call *Carizash*,

Carizath, also *Besta*, and *Mesandra*. *Margiana* which is now called *Istibus*, is bounderd on the North with the River *Oxus*. The chiefe City is *Iodion*, which was anciently called *Antiochia*. *Bactrina*, now called *Batter*, or *Charassa*, is a part of *Tartaria*. The Citties are *Bactra*, which is now called *Bochara*, and also *Istigia*. *Paropamissus* is a part of *Bactriana* by the Mountaine *Paropamissus*, it is now called *Candabar*, or *Amblesam*. The chiefe City is *Candabar* which is a famous Mart Towne. *Aria* is so called from the Metropolis thereof *Ery*, which is 12. miles in compasse. *Carmania* which is called *Circa*, or *Chermaine* reacheth to the Indian Sea, even to *Gedrosta*, having many Citties and Havens. The Metropolis is *Chirmain*. There are also in *Carmania* these Kingdomes, *Macram*, *Eryca*, *Guadel*, and *Paran*. Some doe falsely suppose *Gesia* to be *Guzarate*, seeing *Guzarate* is the Kingdome of *Cambaja*. *Babylon* is situate betweene the Persian Bay and *Mesopotamia*, and on the right and left hand it is enclosed with the Desarts of *susia*, and *Arabia*, is was so named from *Babylon* the chiefe City thereof. *Chaldea* joyneth to it. In *Chaldea* was the City *Vr*, which *Iosephus* calleth *Vra*, from whence *Abraham* being admonished by God removed and went to *Haran* in *Mesopotamia*. This Kingdome hath many Rivers, as *Canac*, *Araxes*, and *Cirus*, which doe water the Southerne part of *Media*. In *Assyria* is the River *Tigri*. In *Susania* the River *Enelus*: *Mesopotamia* hath the River *Euphrates*. In *Margiana* *Oxus*, *Arius* and *Marqu*. *Bactria* hath the Navigable River *Ochus*, and others: in *Aria* are the Rivers *Aius*, *Toncleus*, *Arapenes*, and others. It hath also divers Mountaines, as *Orontes* in *Media*, and the Mountaine *Coronus* in *Hyrcania*. Also the Mountaine *Taurus* which cutteth thorow the middle of *Perfia* which hath divers names given it by the people that dwell neere it. It hath also many woods, especially *Parthia* is very woody, and the Northerne part of *Hyrcania* which hath great woods, which have store of Oakes, Pinetrees, and Firre-trees, and are full of wilde Beasts, as Tigers, Panthers, and Libards. Also *Aria* is full of Woods and Mountaines, as also all *Perfia*. Concerning the publike works, there are many stately and magnificent Buildings in this Kingdome, and especially in *Babylon*. As that magnificent Bridge in the City of *Babylon*, which the Queene *Semiramis* built over *Euphrates*, concerning which see *Marster*, *Lib. 5.* who also in the same Booke describeth a strange Garden which *Semiramis* caused to be planted. In the City *Susia* was the Castle *Susa*, in which the Kings of *Media* dwelt, which as *Cassiodorus* reporteth *Memnon* built with stones laid in Gold in stead of mortar: this is one of the 7. wonders of the world. But of these things enough, I come to their manners. They created their Kings out of one Family. He that did not obey the King had his head and armes cut off, and his Carcasse was after ward left unburied. They had all of them many Wives, and many Concubines, which they kept for Offspring sake, that they might have Children by them. They never consulted of waighy matters but when they had their Cups about them, for they supposed that they could then determine better of matters than when they were sober. Acquaintance and equals did salute one another with a kisse. The Inferiors did shew reverence by outward ge-

tures.

tures. They buried their dead bodies in the ground, and anoynted them with waxe. It was counted a hainous offence to laugh or speer before the King. Concerning the burying of their dead others doe write the cleane contrary, namely, that the Persians did bring forth the bodies of their dead without the City into the Fields, and there cast them forth naked to be devoured by Dogs and ravenous Fowles. And moreover that they would not suffer the bones of the dead to be buried or inter'd. And when any Carcasse was not presently devoured by the Fowles and the wild Beasts, they accounted it an unlucky signe, superstitiously beleeving that that man had a wicked impure soule, and therefore worthy of Hell, and his neighbours did lament him as a man who after this life had no hope of Felicity. But if he were soone devoured by the Beasts, they judged him happy. But now the Persians are more soft and gentle in their manners and behaviour then either the Turkes, the Tartarians, or the Sarazens. They are by nature liberall, and doe love civility: and they reverence Learning and Arts, but especially Astrologie, Phisick, and Poesie. They use Parents and Brethren with much respect: and Nobility of blood is greatly esteemed: wherein they differ from the Turkes, which make no differences of blood or dissent. Moreover, they doe entertaine and use strangers curceously: but yet they are very jealous. So that they suffer not their Wives to come in a strangers sight, though in other matters they use them with great respect, contrary to the maner of the Turkes, who use their Wives like slaves. The Persian women are very faire. They doe addit themselves to Mechanick Arts, and especially weaving of Silke stufes which are transported thorow all *Syria*, and other Easterne Countries. They did feed heretofore on the fruit of the Turpentine Tree, and on Acornes, and wilde Peares: their daily food after running, or other exercises of the body was hard bread, their drinke was water. They get much by buying and selling of Pearles, and sweet Spices, but especially of Silke, of which here is great store.

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TARTA-