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NO national government holds out to its subjects so many alluring motives to obtain an accurate knowledge of their own country, and of its various interests, as that of United America. By the freedom of our elections, publick honours and publick offices are not confined to any one class of men, but are offered to merit, in whatever rank it may be found. To discharge the duties of publick office with honour and applause, the history, policy, commerce, productions, particular advantages and interests of the several States, ought to be thoroughly understood.—It is obviously wise and prudent then to initiate our youth in the knowledge of these things, and thus to form their minds upon republican principles, and prepare them for future usefulness and honour. Happily, there is no science better adapted to the capacities of youth, and more apt to captivate their attention, than Geography.—An acquaintance with this science, more than with any other, satisfies that pertinent curiosity, which is the predominating feature of the youthful mind. It is to be lamented that this part of education has hitherto been so much neglected in America. Our young men, universally, have been much better acquainted with the Geography of Europe and Asia, than with that of their own state and country. The want of suitable books on this subject has been the cause, we hope the sole cause, of this shameful defect in our education. Till within a few years, we have seldom pretended to write, and hardly to think for ourselves. We have humbly received from Great-Britain, our laws, our man-

ners, our books and our modes of thinking ; and our youth have been educated, rather as the subjects of the British King, than as the Citizens of a free republick. But the scene is now changing. The revolution has been favourable to science, particularly to that of the Geography of our own country.

In the following sheets, the Author has endeavoured to bring this valuable branch of knowledge home to common schools, and to the cottage fire-side, by comprising, in a small and cheap volume, the most entertaining and interesting part of the large octavo volume, published by him in 1789.—He has endeavoured to accommodate it to the use of schools as a reading book, that our youth of both sexes, at the same time that they are learning to read, might imbibe an acquaintance with their own country, and an attachment to its interests ; and, in that forming period of their lives, begin to qualify themselves to act their several parts in life with reputation to themselves, and with usefulness to their country.

That the labours of the Author may be a benefit to the youth of that country which he loves, and which he has sedulously explored, is his most ardent wish.

Charlestown, (Massachusetts) January 1, 1791.

