

Werk

Titel: Geography made easy

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Verlag: Hall

Ort: Boston

Jahr: 1791

Kollektion: Itineraria; Nordamericana

Digitalisiert: Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

Werk Id: PPN247653810

PURL: <http://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?PPN247653810>

OPAC: <http://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de/DB=1/PPN?PPN=247653810>

LOG Id: LOG_0053

LOG Titel: France

LOG Typ: chapter

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then the Carthaginians, on whose departure, sixteen years before Christ, it became subject to the Romans, till the year 400, when the Goths, Vandals, Suevi, Alans and Silingi, on Constantine's withdrawing his forces from that kingdom to the east, invaded it, and divided it amongst themselves ; but the Goths in a little time were sole masters of it under their King ALARICK I. who founded the Spanish monarchy. After a regular succession of monarchs, we come to the late King CHARLES III. who ascended the throne upon the death of his half brother FERDINAND VI. in the year 1759.

F R A N C E.

Length ^{miles.} 600 } between { 45° and 51° North Latitude.
Breadth 500 } { 5° and 8° East Longitude.

BOUNDED north, by the English channel and the Netherlands; east, by Germany, Switzerland and Italy; south, by the Mediterranean and Spain; west, by the Bay of Biscay. Containing 400 cities, 1500 smaller towns, 43,000 parishes, 100,000 villages.

Climate, Soil, Rivers, Commerce, &c.] France is situated in a very mild climate. Its soil in most parts is very fertile; it is bounded by high ridges of mountains, the lower branches of which cross the greater part of the kingdom; it consequently abounds with large rivers, such as the Rhone, the Loire, the Garonne, the Seine, &c. to the amount of 200, which are navigable; and it is contiguous to two oceans. These united advantages render this kingdom one of the richest countries of Europe, both with respect to natural productions and commerce. Wine is the staple commodity of France. One million six hundred thousand acres of ground are laid out in vineyards; and the net profit from each acre is estimated at from 4 to 7 pounds sterling. France annually exports wines to the amount

of 24 millions of livres. The fruits and other productions of France, do not much differ from those of Spain, but are raised in much greater plenty. France has very important fisheries, both on her own, and on the American coast.

In 1773, there were in France 1500 silk mills, 21,000 looms for silk stuffs, 12,000 for ribbands and lace, 20,000 for silk stockings, and the different silk manufactures employed 2,000,000 of people.

In point of commerce, France may be ranked next to England and Holland. The French have the greatest share of the Levant trade—they enjoy some valuable commercial privileges in Turkey; but their West-India possessions, which are admirably cultivated and governed, are the richest. Before the late American war, the balance of commerce in favour of France was estimated at 70,000,000 livres, and has not since been diminished.

Government.] Unsettled. A most important and glorious revolution in favour of civil and religious liberty is now accomplishing in France.

In France there were in 1789, 18 Archbishops, 112 Bishops, 166,000 clergymen, 5400 convents, containing 200,000 persons devoted to monastick life, and 25,000,000, souls.

Learning.] The sciences have arisen to a very great height in this kingdom, and this nation can boast of having produced great matter-pieces in almost every branch of scientific knowledge and elegant literature. There are 20 universities in France. The royal academies of sciences, of the French language, and of inscriptions and antiquities at Paris, are justly celebrated.

History.] France was originally the country of the ancient Gauls, and was conquered by the Romans twenty-five years before Christ. The Goths, Vandals, Alans and Suevi, and afterwards the Burgundi, divided it amongst them from A. D. 400 to 476, when the Franks, another set of German emigrants, who had settled between the Rhine and the Maine, completed the foundation of the present kingdom under Clovis. It was conquered, except Paris, by Edward III. of England,