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TURKEY IN ASIA.

BOUNDED north, by the Black Sea and Circassia ; east, by Persia ; south, by Arabia and the Levant sea ; west, by the Archipelago, the Hellespont and Propontis. Length 1000 miles, breadth 800.

The air is naturally delightful, serene and salubrious, yet the inhabitants are frequently visited with the plague. The soil is calculated to produce all the necessaries, agreeables, and even luxuries of life. The Grand Seignior is absolute sovereign of the Turkish empire, who appoints Bashaws or Beglerbegs to govern the several provinces. Mahometanism is the established religion of the Turkish dominions. The Turks, when young, are well made and robust. Their eyes and hair are black. The women look old at 30.—Turkey in Asia contains many large provinces, particularly Syria, Judea, or Palestine, Phœnicia, &c. which are subject to the Turks. In Palestine, or the Holy Land, and the countries adjacent, were Babylon, Damascus, Nineveh, Tyre, Sidon, Samaria, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem the capital, which was taken, pillaged, burnt, and entirely razed to the ground by Titus the Roman General, under Domitian, in the year 70, and is now a very inconsiderable place, and only famous for what it has been ; for there Jesus Christ preached the Christian religion, and was crucified by the Jews upon Mount Calvary. Ephesus is in the lesser Asia, famous for the temple of Diana, which Erostratus burnt, in order to immortalize his memory. Near Jerusalem is the lake *Asphaltites*, or the *Dead Sea*, being the place where Sodom and Gomorrah stood. In Mesopotamia, between the Euphrates and the Tigris, is supposed to have been the Garden of Eden. There are now no remains of the tower of Babel, or the city of Babylon, nor is the place where they stood exactly known. Owls now dwell there, and wild beasts and dragons in their pleasant places (*Isai. xiii. 20, &c.*) Nineveh too, once the capital of the Assyrian empire, is now known only by its ruins.

ASIATICK