

UNIVERSAL
GEOGRAPHY,
OR
A DESCRIPTION
OF
ALL THE PARTS OF THE WORLD,
ON A NEW PLAN,

ACCORDING TO THE GREAT NATURAL DIVISIONS OF THE GLOBE ;

ACCOMPANIED WITH

Analytical, Synoptical, and Elementary Tables.

By M. MALTE-BRUN.

**IMPROVED BY THE ADDITION OF THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION,
DERIVED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.**

VOLUME IV.

CONTAINING THE DESCRIPTION OF AFRICA AND ADJACENT ISLANDS.

Likewise additional matter, not contained in the European Edition, and
Corrections.

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DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS TO WIT:

District Clerk's Office.

BE it remembered, that on this fifteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, and in the forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America, Wells and Lilly of said district have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as Proprietors in the words following, to wit—

Universal Geography, or a Description of all the Parts of the World, on a New Plan, according to the Great Natural Divisions of the Globe; accompanied with analytical, synoptical, and elementary Tables. By M. Maitz-Brown. Improved by the addition of the most recent information derived from various sources. Volume IV. Containing the Description of Africa and adjacent Islands. Likewise additional matter, not contained in the European Edition, and Corrections.

In Conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the Times therein mentioned;" and also to an Act entitled, "An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the encouragement of Learning by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the Benefits thereof to the Arts of Designing, Engraving, and Etching Historical and other Prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS,

Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.

**KINGDOM
OF TUNIS.**

To the west of Tripoli is the kingdom of **TUNIS**, the ancient *Africa Propria*, and the seat of the Carthaginian power. In the middle age, the State of Tripoli was subject to Tunis, of which Barbyrossa took possession in 1533. At the present day, the Tunisians, more civilized than the Algerines, are their inferiors in power, and have some difficulty to support their independence. The State contains four or five millions of inhabitants. The Moors, who are the agriculturists and merchants, are less numerous than the nomade Arabs. The Turkish and Mameluke soldiery are comprehended under the designation of *harefi*, and are now deprived of all influence. The princes, who are hereditary, are descended from a Greek renegade, and a Genoese female slave, but they are surrounded by an army of Moors. The sovereign is called **Kamouda Bey**, a person of extraordinary vigour of character, and has now reigned nearly thirty years, without any attempt having been made to shake his authority. He is not the legitimate heir, yet lives on terms of intimacy with his cousins, who ought to have inherited the throne. He superintends all the departments of government, and extends the protection of the law to Christians and Jews. The regular army does not amount to 20,000 men, and the navy consists of a few vessels armed for giving chase. Addicted

Government.

to agriculture, and other branches of industry, the Tunisians are less given to piracy than the other people of Barbary. The State revenues may amount to a million Sterling.*

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The heat becomes insupportable in July and August, when the south wind brings the heated air from the interior of Africa. Some branches of the Atlas contain elevated and temperate regions. A fertile plain lies along the river Mejerda, the *Bagradas* of the ancients. Among its minerals are found alabaster, crystal, clay, plumbago, iron, and lead. The cattle are small and delicate. The horses are a degenerate breed. The sheep of Zaara, which are bred here, are as large as deer. Here are lions, panthers, hyænas, jackals, and other ferocious animals.

Climato.

Productions.

The southern part is sandy, rather level, barren, and dried up by the solar heat. It contains a large shallow lake called Loodeah,† which is the *Palus Tritonis* of the ancients. The country along the sea shore is rich in olives, and contains many towns and populous villages. But the western part is full of mountains and hills, watered by numerous rivulets, with highly fertile banks, yielding the finest and most abundant crops. Even the Mejerda is not navigable in summer. The generality of the soil is impregnated with sea salt and nitre, and salt springs are more plenty than fresh ones.

The city of Tunis is one of the first in Africa. It has a harbour, with good fortifications. The only fresh water to be had is rain water. This city has manufactures of velvets, silks, cloths, and red bonnets, which are worn by the people. The chief exports consist of woollen stuffs, red bonnets, gold dust, lead, oils, and morocco leather. The most active part of the trade is carried on with France. In no part of Barbary are the Moors so tolerant and so courteous as here. The commercial spirit of an-

City of
Tunis.

* Chateaubriand, Mémoire sur Tunis, dans l'Itineraire à Jerusalem. Mac-Gill's Account of Tunis. London, 1811, p. 24—39, &c.

† Bruns, Afrika, VI. p. 329.

BOOK cient Carthage seems to hover over this locality, so long
LXV. the focus of African civilization and power. The ruins
 Ruins of of that ancient city are to the north-west of Tunis. Her
 Carthage. harbours, once the asylum of so many formidable fleets,
 seem partly filled up by the falling in of the ground. In
 the south-east part are seen some remains of the moles by
 which they were bounded.* A noble aqueduct is still to
 be seen, a monument of the Roman power, under which
 the second Carthage flourished. The emperor Charles V.
 caused a drawing to be made of it, and the design was ar-
 ranged by the celebrated Titian, to serve as a model for
 some tapestry to be executed for the Austrian court.†

Among the modern places we may mention Barda, the Tunisian Versailles, being the palace in which the Bey resides. The Goletta, a well appointed fortress, commands the roadstead of Tunis, and the entrance of a large pool, which is scarcely navigable for boats. Biserta, a fortified town, is situated on a lagoon, which is exceedingly well stocked with fish, and might be formed into a magnificent harbour.

Porto-Farina, situated to the north-west on the Mediterranean, has an excellent harbour, which has become foul with rubbish. The ancient Utica, where the younger Cato died a voluntary death, was near this place. Sooza, a trading town, built on a rock, has a castle, and a good harbour on the Mediterranean. Hamamet, Sfakes, and Gabes, have also harbours or roadsteads. In the interior we notice Kairoan, a town founded by the Arabians, and for some centuries the capital of Africa. The Mussulmans boast of its principal mosque, supported, as they say, by 500 granitic columns. Foser, on Lake Loodeah, is a great mart for wool.

State of
Gadames.

The Bey of Tunis has sometimes disputed with the

* Chateaubriand, *Itineraire*, III. p. 186, &c. Jackson, *Memoir on the Ruins of Carthage*.

† Fischer d'Erlach, *Architecture Historique*, liv. II. Planche II. *Vienne*, 1721.

Bey of Tripoli the sovereignty of the small state of Gadames, which is at a distance in the interior, to the south of the lesser Syrtæ. Gadames had once a flourishing trade, which has declined since the caravans, in going from Tripoli to Tombuctoo, have stopped at Agadez, instead of this place. All the caravans from the interior bring slaves, ostrich feathers, ivory, amber, senna leaves, and gold dust. Gadames is called by a modern author Gdamsia.*

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