AN ESSAY ON THE PHYSIOGNOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE PRESENT INHABITANTS OF BRITAIN, WITH REFERENCE TO THEIR ORIGIN, AS GOTHS AND CELTS

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An Essay on the Physiognomy and Physiology of the Present Inhabitants of Britain, with Reference to Their Origin, as Goths and Celts by T. Price

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T. PRICE

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TOGETHER WITH

Remarks upon the Physiognomical Characteristics of Freland,

AND OF SOME OF THE

NEIGHBOURING CONTINENTAL NATIONS.

BY THE REV. T. PRICE.

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PREFACE.

The following pages, though chiefly written upon the subject of Physiognomy, yet have no reference whatever to that science, as connected with either its Lavaterian or Astrological departments; but are solely designed as a refutation of another, and more pernicious system of opinions; that is, of the modern theory of original national distinctions, and of generic diversities of the human race; and to remove that stumbling-block, which has of late years so greatly cumbered the path of History and Physiology.

But, however the interests of science may have suffered by the admission of false principles, it is not merely in scientific pursuits, that the errors of this unfounded system call for correction: they have extended themselves to subjects of much higher importance, and have interfered even with the declarations of Divine Revelation itself.

While the physiological distinctions of the human race were confined to the ancient classification of the four temperaments of Sanguine, Phlegmatic, Choleric, and Melancholy, with their several combinations, the arrangement was confirmed by the actual characters of individuals.

Or while they were merely applied to the several complexions of White, Black, Red, the whole doctrine of the fall and redemption of man.

To the believer in revelation, no other evidence is necessary upon this subject, than that it is written, "HE —— hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." But although the Scriptures were not intended to instruct us in philosophical researches, yet it is gratifying to find that, whenever scientific facts are plainly and explicitly declared, every real discovery in science tends to confirm and illustrate their truth.

It is therefore presumed, that the contents of the present volume will, by a forcible train of arguments, from facts already acknowledged, and by the DEVELOPING OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CAUSES HITHERTO UN- KNOWN, contribute materially towards the general stock of knowledge, and place the subject of which it treats, upon a foundation entirely new.

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