

**A SKETCH OF
ANCIENT
GEOGRAPHY**

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A Sketch of Ancient Geography by Anonymous

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BY A
LADY,
FOR THE
USE OF HER PUPILS.

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A SKETCH
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ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY.

THE most important document on the origin of Nations, is the tenth chapter of Genesis, from which we gather, that after the dispersion of mankind consequent on the confusion of languages at the building of the Tower of Babel, the posterity of Shem peopled Asia, with the exception of those states now forming Turkey in Asia, including Asia-Minor (or Natolia), Georgia, Circasia, and Armenia. The posterity of Ham peopled Syria, and the whole of Africa. The descendants of Japhet peopled Natolia, Georgia, Circasia,

Armenia, and Europe, (called in Scripture the Isles of the Gentiles.)*

The geographical knowledge of the Ancients was naturally extremely limited. America was of course unknown to them, and the same may be said of the north of Europe and Asia, and the middle and south of Africa; for although the account given by Herodotus and Pliny, of a voyage by Phœnician mariners, in the service of Pharoah Necho, king of Egypt, round the Cape of Good Hope, is probably true, (although its authenticity is much questioned,) the discovery was not followed up, and no beneficial results ensued; and Vasca de Gama enjoys the reputation of being the first navigator who doubled that important Cape.

* It is uncertain by what nation America was peopled, but from the traditions of the Natives, at the time of its discovery, it is generally supposed that it must have been from the inhabitants of the north of Asia, but at what period is not known.

EUROPE,

(THE BRITISH ISLANDS.)

THE Romans were acquainted only with the name of Ireland, which they called Hibernia, and from which the more modern Erin is derived. This Island is said to have been colonized by the Greeks, in very early times, from which they crossed into Scotland, under a chief named Briatan, and formed a settlement, to which they gave the name of Britain. Their descendants in the course of time, spread into England, where they occupied most of the northern counties, under the name of Brigantes.

The southern part of England, called Albion from its white cliffs, was probably peopled from Gaul; the inhabitants retained the name of Belgæ, from Belgic Gaul, until Britain became a Roman Province.

Little is known of the geography of ancient

Britain, before the invasion of Julius Cæsar, and even in the Augustan age, it was considered as the extremity of the world. We know, however, both from Ezekiel, who mentions tin as a commodity of merchandize at Tyre, and from profane historians, that the Phœnicians carried on a considerable traffic in that metal with the inhabitants of Britain. The Cassiterides, or Islands of tin, and most probably the coasts of Cornwall, supplied the metal, though Vectis, (the Isle of White,) is said to have been the chief mart for this commerce.

Julius Cæsar, from whom we have the earliest authentic accounts of Britain, tells us, that when he invaded the country, it was inhabited by thirty different tribes, of whom the most important were the Brigantes, who inhabited the northern part of the Island. The Silures, who under Caractacus, so bravely resisted the Romans in the reign of Claudius, inhabited South Wales, and the adjoining English counties.

The Icœni, whose celebrated Queen Boadicea was conquered by Suetonius Paulinus, inhabited Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Trinobantes, who, under the conduct of Cassivellaunus, resisted Julius Cæsar, inhabited Middlesex and the adjoining counties.

The Romans invaded Britain 52 B.C., but the conquest was not completed until 80 A.D., when Agricola subdued the whole Island, as far north as the Forth, and having defeated the Caledonians, (or Men of the Woods,) under Galgacus, at the foot of the Grampian Hills, in order to secure his conquest from the future invasion of these Barbarians, erected a line of forts from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde; the Emperor Adrian, finding this untenable, fixed a boundary considerably to the south, and erected a line of forts, connected by a strong wall, from the Tyne to the Solway Firth. Antoninus restored the kingdom to its former extent, and connected the forts erected by Agricola by a strong wall, the remains of which still bear the name of Graham's Dyke, from the Scot who first scaled it; but the boundary was finally fixed by Severus at Adrian's wall, which he greatly strengthened. Caledonia (Scotland or North Britain), of which this