



MAHOMETAN WOMAN TRAVELLING.

THE WORLD
IN MINIATURE;
EDITED BY
FREDERIC SHOBERL.

Hindoostan,

CONTAINING
A DESCRIPTION OF THE RELIGION, MANNERS,
CUSTOMS, TRADES, ARTS, SCIENCES,
LITERATURE, DIVERSIONS, &c.

OF
The Hindoos.

ILLUSTRATED
*With Upwards of One Hundred Coloured
Engravings.*

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. VI.

The proper study of mankind is man.—POPE.

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HINDOOSTAN

In Miniature.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Hindoos, according to the testimony of all travellers, are a cheerful people, passionately fond of shows and amusements, though custom prevents them from taking an active part in some of those diversions in which the populace of other nations delight. Such, for example is dancing, which as we have seen, is in some measure a profession belonging exclusively to a particular class,

and must not be exercised by any other. Next to dancing, their favourite amusements are the exhibitions of tumblers, jugglers, and snake-charmers. Dramatic representations also, rude as they are in general, are eagerly attended by the idlers who fill the streets in the evening. If to these exhibitions we add the religious festivals and processions, they form altogether a tolerable catalogue of amusements, which would nevertheless be incomplete, were we to omit one that is the delight of every Hindoo from the prince to the peasant—we mean the recital of poems or histories, either simply related or sung in a kind of recitative. For this enjoyment they will abstain from sleep and food,