



BASKET-MAKER & HIS WIFE

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

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IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

The proper study of mankind is man.—POPE.

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HINDOOSTAN

In Miniature.

OF THE VAISYA, (*the Third Caste*) ;

THE SOODERS, (*the Fourth Caste*) ;

THE

PARIAS AND THE POOLEAHS.

THE Hindoos of the third caste, or the *Vaisya*, are engaged in the pursuits of agriculture, gardening, the breeding of cattle, and in trade, as dealers in the productions of the earth and manufactured goods. Being most-

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ly in easy circumstances, they dress well and keep numerous servants. Such of them as follow retail trades, wait for their customers seated at their ease on mats or carpets, smoking the hookah, chewing betel, or fanning themselves. On the entrance of a purchaser they spread their commodities before him, and never sell but for ready money. As it would be impossible for them in travelling to observe strictly all the practices enjoined by their religion, few of them are met with toward the lower part of the Ganges and in Bengal; but they have *sircars* or travelling clerks, who go about the country, buying up or bespeaking for them cottons and other