

produce ; for there are many veins of water that sink to great depths in the internal part of the earth. In some places we are certain to meet with water by digging ; in others, none can be found. In almost all vallies and low grounds, water is certain to be met with at moderate depths ; but, on the contrary, in all high places it cannot be extracted from the bowels of the earth, but must be collected from the heavens. There are countries of great extent where a spring cannot be found, and where all the water which supplies the inhabitants and animals with drink, is contained in pools and cisterns. In the East, especially in Arabia, Egypt, and Persia, wells are extremely scarce, and the people have been obliged to make reservoirs of a considerable extent to collect the waters as it falls from the heavens. These works, projected and executed from public necessity, are the most beautiful and magnificent monuments of the eastern nations ; some of the reservoirs occupy a space of two square leagues, and serve to fertilize whole provinces, by means of baths and small rivulets that let it out on every side. But in low countries, where the greatest rivers flow, we cannot dig far from the surface, without meeting with
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