

old continent, is about 3600 leagues, Paris measure; it is only interrupted by the Caspian and Red sea, the breadths of which are not very considerable, and we need not pay any regard to these interruptions, when it is considered, that the surface of the globe is divided only in four parts.

This greatest length is found, by measuring the old continent diagonally; for if measured according to the meridians, we shall find that there are only 2500 leagues from the northernmost Cape of Lapland to the Cape of Good Hope; and that the Baltic and Mediterranean cause a much greater interruption than is met with in the other way. With respect to all the other distances that might be measured in the old continent under the same meridians, we shall find them to be much smaller than this; having, for example, only 1800 leagues from the most southern point of the island of Ceylon to the northernmost coast of Nova Zembla. Likewise if we measure the continent parallel to the equator, we find that the greatest uninterrupted length is found from Trefana, on the western coast of Africa, to Ningpo on the eastern coast of China, and that it is about 2800 leagues. Another course may be measured  
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