

considered the division of the globe under this point of view, I shall submit a few remarks. It is very singular that the line which forms the greatest length of the terrestrial continents divides them also into two equal parts; it is no less so that these two lines commence and end at the same degree of latitude, and are both alike inclined to the equator. These relations may belong to some general conclusions, which may probably be hereafter discovered, but of which we are now ignorant. The inequalities in the figure of the two continents we shall hereafter examine more fully: it is sufficient here to observe, that the most ancient countries are the nearest to these lines, and are the highest; and that the more modern lands are the farthest, and also the lowest. Thus in America, the country of the Amazons, Guiana, and Canada, will be the most modern parts; by casting our eyes on the map of this country we see water on every side, and that they are divided by numberless lakes and rivers, which also indicate that these lands are of a late formation; while on the other hand Peru and Mexico are very elevated and mountainous, and situated at no great distance from the line that divides the continent, which are circumstances that seem to prove their antiquity. Africa is very mountainous,