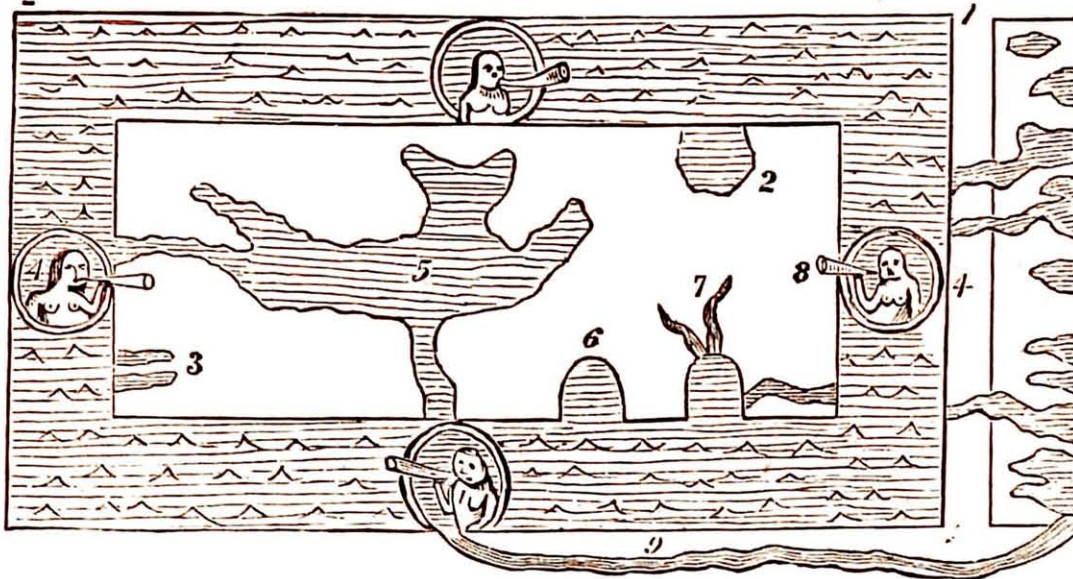


Fig. 114.



THE GEOGRAPHY OF COSMAS.*

(From a reduced fac-simile of the original print in the British Museum.)

ton Irvine, in his "Life of Columbus," "that in the Psalms the heavens are said to be extended like a hide,—that is, according to commentators, the curtain or covering of a tent, which among the ancient pastoral nations was formed of the hides of animals; and that St Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, compares the heavens to a tabernacle or tent extended over the earth, which they thence inferred must be flat." In the sectional view of Cosmas the heavens are represented as a semicircular vault or tent raised on perpendicular walls; a vast mountain beyond the "Great Sea," lofty as the innermost continent of the Buddhist cosmogony, rises immediately under it; when the sun passed behind this mountain it was night, and when it emerged from it, it was day. And certainly under the crystal box of the monk it would be in vain to attempt, by passing westwards, to arrive at the far east.

- * 1. The great surrounding oceans.
- 2. Caspian Sea.
- 3. River Phison.
- 4-4. Points of the Compass.
- 5. Mediterranean Sea.

- 6. Red Sea.
- 7-8. Persian Gulf, with the rivers Tigris and Euphrates.
- 9. River Gihon.