

since that era ; for in Asia, as in America, tribes of men have also been thus designated, and called after the various animals of the woods. The Snake Indians are well known to the western explorers in America.

SUPPOSED ORIGIN OF HUMAN COMPLEXIONS, WITH THE
ANCIENT SIGNIFICATION OF THE NAMES OF THE THREE
SONS OF NOAH, AND OTHER CURIOUS MATTER.

THE sons of Noah were *three*, as stated in the book of Genesis ; between whose descendants the whole earth in process of time became divided. This division appears to have taken place, in the earliest ages of the *first* nations after the flood, in such manner as to suit, or correspond with the several constitutions of those nations in a physical sense, as well as with a reference to the various complexions of the descendants of these three heads of the human race.

This preparation of the nations, respecting animal constitution and colour, at the fountain head, must have been directed by the hand of the Creator, in an arbitrary manner, by which not only his Sovereignty, as the governor of our earth with all its tribes, is manifest, but also his Wisdom ; because the same constitution and complexion, which is suited to the temperate and frigid zones of the globe, could not endure the burning climates of the torrid ; so neither are the constitutions of the equatorial nations, so tempered as to enjoy the anowy and ice bound regions in the high latitudes north and south of the equator.

The very names, or words Shem, Ham, and Japheth, were in the language of Noah, which was probably the pure Hebrew ; in some sense significant of their future national character and prosperity. We proceed to show in what sense their names were descriptive prospectively, of their several destinies in the earth, as well also as that *Ham*, was the very *name* of his colour, or complexion.

The word *Shem*, says Dr. Clarke, signifies *renown*, in the language of Noah ; which, as that great man, now no more, remarks, has been wonderfully fulfilled, both in a temporal and spiritual sense.