

TRAVELS IN AMERICA.

Extracts from Bülow's Interesting Travels in America, translated from the German, for the "PORT FOLIO," a paper published at Philadelphia.

(Continued from page 12.)

THE New-England-men, who, with their colonies in Pennsylvania, on the Ohio, and in the southern states (North-Carolina,) comprize perhaps a fourth part of the whole population, are, as is well-known, the descendants of those rigorous presbyterians, puritans, independents, quakers, and other fanatical sects, who, under the government of the Stuarts, as oppressed non-conformists, carried with them, to those cold and barren shores of that part of America, which they called New-England, that hatred against kingly power, as the government by which they had been persecuted, which, though weakened, continued among their posterity, and was perhaps, in our days, the cause of the American revolution. Toleration was not the virtue of these splenetic enthusiasts, although themselves the victims of intolerance; for the reigning presbyterians in the colony of Massachusetts banished the weaker quakers and anabaptists, who, therefore, fled to Rhode-Island, and there founded a colony. There could be nothing amiable in these crabbed hypocrites, for they doomed to capital punishment those, who should dance on a Sunday. Stern, hypocritical manners, calculated to gratify, under the cloak of rigour, the ruling passion of cold hearts, self-interest, and even deceit, if necessary, seems to have been a characteristic feature of these men. It is well ascertained, that they belonged, for the most part, to the lower class of the people in England and Scotland, and probably a great number of them were tradesmen. Every one, who knows that mankind most vehem-

ently desire what they do not possess, will acknowledge, that, in general, the external splendour of wealth dazzles the poor, more than those, who are rendered, by the enjoyment of riches, more indifferent to them. Yet the New-Englanders may boast of the most honourable descent of any among the Americans; for they maintain, that they never admitted among them transported malefactors. They have likewise always possessed the most political information. Without them, no revolution could have taken place; and they make more account of education than the other Americans. It will, however, be seen in the sequel, that they have more degenerated from the energy of their fathers than might be expected.

As for the virtuous ladies from Bridewell, and the gentlemen from Newgate, and other prisons, with whom the shores of Virginia, Maryland, Carolina, &c. were endowed, no very respectable progeny can be expected from them. The pretence that it became necessary to hang almost all those felons, thus transported from England, is scarcely credible, when we consider how large their numbers were; and that, when the means of subsistence becomes easier, the practice of the crimes, which are punished with hanging, grows less frequent, even when they remain lurking in the mind; and further, that, in America, hanging, and in general the punishment of offenders is extremely rare, whether from mutual indulgence, or from the principle of the common proverb, "live, and let others live." But, perhaps, in those times, the laws were more severe, and the art of living in society, in such an accommodating manner, was not so well understood*.

* An American will here accuse me of being dissatisfied with judicial proceedings in America, because they do not, upon all occasions, hang and break on the wheel. But I write only for those, who can read.