

veracity a reliance could be placed. A residence in Canada for a series of years, has afforded to the author opportunities of witnessing the modes of life pursued by several of the Indian nations, and has enabled him to adduce what he has himself observed, as well as to reject what he deemed improbable in the writings he consulted.

Amid the multitude of tribes scattered throughout the extensive regions of America, it appears singular that there should be found in use a distinct language peculiar to each, and frequently customs which have but little affinity to those of neighbouring associations. Among many, ceremonies and practices are found resembling those of the former inhabitants of countries in the ancient hemisphere. When there appears any striking similarity with respect to usages, among people far remote from each other, it is remarked in the following pages.

The events which take place among men, many of whom are but little removed from the rude simplicity of a state of nature, appear to present but a barren field for narration. The natives of America seem to possess but little variety in their character or customs, and to be incapable of attaining any great degree of improvement. Their passions exhibit a resemblance to the vast inequalities of the climates to which their bodies are exposed. Like the elements, they are either lulled to stilness, or roused into unrelenting fury.