

been written, exclusively treating of the aborigines of North America, and so general a similitude exists, in the colour, dialects, and habits of the different tribes inhabiting the British colonies, that a very detailed and minute description of them would be unnecessary. There is hardly any nation from the north to the south pole, to which, some antiquary in the extravagance of conjecture, has not ascribed the honour of peopling America. The Jews, the Canaanites, the Phœnicians, the Carthagenians, the Greeks, and the Scythians, in ancient times, are supposed to have settled in this Western world. The Chinese, the Swedes, the Norwegians, the Welsh, and the Spaniards, are said to have sent colonies thither in later ages, at different periods, and on different occasions. To discuss the merits of these different theories would be to enter the regions of conjecture and controversy. All that we know with infallible certainty is, that all the human race sprang from the same source, and that the descendants of one man under the protection as well as in obedience to the command of heaven, multiplied and replenished the earth. But we cannot trace the branches of this first family, or point out with certainty the time and manner in which they divided and spread over the face of the globe.

Europe was greatly astonished at the immense decrease of the native population of the new Spanish Territories during the first century after the discovery of the country. In British America they have also greatly decreased, but not from the same causes as those in the South. No attempt has ever been made to enslave them in Nova Scotia; or to make them in any way subservient to the European settler; consequently cruelty and ill-usage so abhorrent to the nature of an Englishman have had no share in their diminution. But the use of ardent spirits which they have acquired from civilized people, and the introduction of the small pox, and other disorders previously unknown to them, have tended greatly to their decrease. The diseases of Savages, though fewer in number, are like those of the animals, whom they nearly resemble in their mode of life, more violent and more fatal. In addition to these causes they rear fewer children than the whites. Among wandering tribes, who depend upon hunting and fishing for a subsistence, the mother cannot attempt to rear a second child, until the first has attained such a degree of vigour as to be in some measure independent of her care.