

A
CATECHISM
OF
ROMAN HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Origin of the Romans.

Question. WHO were the ancient Romans?

Answer. The inhabitants of Ancient Rome, the chief city of Italy; the history of which is full of the most interesting and surprising events.

Q. From what people were the Romans descended?

A. From the ancient Lat'ins, who inhabited the central part of Italy, which was called La'tium; with these a people of Grecian descent, supposed to be the Tyrrhenian Pelasgi, appear to have been united; but the real nature of the circumstances under which the Roman people was formed is unknown, and the common account given by historians is evidently a fable.

Q. Whence do historians usually derive the origin of the Romans?

A. They assert that Æne'as, a Trojan prince, after the destruction of his native city, led a colony into Italy; that he was at first opposed by the native inhabitants, but finally obtained from King Lati'nus the hand of his daughter Lavinia, and the right of succession to the crown.