

by a great convulsion of nature, from the continent of America. Carver in his travels says, that at Beering's Straits (which are now sometimes called Cook's Straits) the continents of Asia and America, on both sides, appear as if they had formerly been united.

Afterwards it is probable that America was further peopled by the Ten Tribes, who were taken captive by Shalmaneser, King of Assyria. We read, in 2 Kings, 17; 6; that "in the ninth year of Hosea, the King of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria; and placed them in Halah and in Habor, by the river of Gozan, and the cities of the Medes." It is said "There was none left but the tribe of Judah only." I conceive, however, that in this, as well as several other passages of Scripture, the tribe of Benjamin, which was once nearly extirpated, is comprehended under that of Judah.---From these two last tribes the Jews in Europe have principally descended: Or, to speak with more accuracy, from these two and the tribe of Levi. We generally speak of the *twelve* tribes of Israel, though in

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