

been so strenuously asserted by some celebrated authors, particularly by the Count de Buffon and Monsieur de Pauw ; both of whom laboured to paint the natives of the New World as despicable, vicious, and brutal ; pronouncing them far inferior to those of the Old, both in mental and corporeal qualities. But there cannot be required a more satisfactory refutation of the assertion made by these writers, than what is conveyed in the numerous and concurring statements of those who, from a long residence among the Indians, had fully qualified themselves to judge of their real character and endowments.*

The celebrated Lafitau, the Jesuit, who resided a considerable time as a missionary in North America about the beginning of the last century, and who states, that to his own experience he added that of Garnier, another Father of his order, who had lived sixty years among the Indians, has given the following description of them in his learned and curious work, "The Manners of the American Savages compared with the Manners of Ancient Times."

"They are possessed," says he, "of sound judgment, lively imagination, ready conception, and

* Mr. Jefferson, the late President of the United States, in his Notes on Virginia, and the Abbé Clavigero, in his History of Mexico, have ably combated the opinions maintained by Buffon in his *Histoire Naturelle*, and of De Pauw in his *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Américains*.