

call them around him, to represent the cruel sufferings and horrid fate of their relations, from the influence of some evil spirit who was preparing to extirpate their race, and to incite them to baffle death, with all its horrors, by their own poignards. At the same time, if their hearts failed them in this necessary act, he was himself ready to perform the deed of mercy with his own hand, as the last act of his affection, and instantly to follow them to the common place of rest, and refuge from human evil."

MEXICO.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARACTER, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS OF THE MEXICANS.

THE Mexicans are of a good stature, generally exceeding rather than falling short of the middle-size, and well proportioned in all their limbs, they have good complexions, narrow foreheads, black eyes, clean, firm, regular white teeth; thick, black, and glossy hair. Their skin is of an olive colour. There is scarcely a nation upon earth in which there are fewer persons deformed, and it would be more difficult to find a single hump-backed, lame, or squinting man amongst a thousand Mexicans, than among a hundred of any other nation. Their appearance neither engages nor disgusts; but among the young women of Mexico, there are many very fair and beautiful.

The Mexicans have ever been moderate in eating, but their passion for strong-liquors is carried to the greatest excess. Formerly, they were kept within bounds by the severity of the laws, but now drunkenness is unpunished, one half of the people seem to have lost their senses, and to this may be ascribed the havoc that is made among them by epidemical disorders. Their understandings are fitted for every kind of science, as