

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
CHARACTER, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS,
OF THE
NORTHERN INDIANS.

Of their Dispositions and domestic Habits.

THE dispositions of the Northern Indians are, in general, morose and covetous, and they seem to be entirely unacquainted even with the name of gratitude. In their visits to the British Factory, they are for ever pleading poverty; and, to excite the compassion of the governor, are seldom at a loss for a plausible story, which they relate as the occasion of their distress, and never fail to interlard their history with sighs, groans, and tears, sometimes affecting to be lame, and even blind. No people seem to have more command of their passions on such occasions; they can even shed tears on one side of their face, while the other, at the same moment, will exhibit a significant smile. False pretences for obtaining charity are so common among these people, that if the governor paid attention to them all, the whole tribe of Northern Indians would make a trade of begging, instead of bringing furs to purchase what they want.

In their trade they never fail to deceive Europeans whenever it is in their power, and take every method to