

INDIAN RESEARCHES,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN OF THE INDIANS.

WHEN the new world was first discovered by Columbus, it was inhabited by a race of men scattered over its vast extent. These people have been denominated Indians, a term not strictly designative of any particular race of people, but indiscriminately applied to the inhabitants of the east and west, to the Islands of the Pacific, and of other places. Columbus thought his new discoveries were a part of those regions of Asia, comprehended by the general name of India. Finally they were distinguished by the addition of the term *west*. The term West Indies once included the islands still bearing that designation, together with the whole of North and South America. The aboriginal inhabitants of the northern division of the Continent are termed the North American Indians.

This people have, properly speaking, no distinctive appellation in use among themselves. The term they use is Aunishhinaubaag, which signifies the inhabitants of my country, or aborigines of the country; as they always apply it in contradistinction with Shoggenosh, or the white inhabitants.

However, strictly speaking, they are not the aborigines of the country. That term applies to a much more ancient race, and a widely different people to themselves; who have been entirely swept away, and have mysteriously disappeared. Had we records of