

driven forth, under the Divine pleasure, to till the land whence they had derived their own existence; then commenced the sorrowful and perilous wanderings of the human race.

The world was all before them, where to choose
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.

THE MULTIPLICATION AND DISPERSION OF MAN.

When man had existed 1656 years,* an event took place so awful in its nature and so terrible in its consequences, that its vestiges may yet be traced on the summits of the highest mountains and in the bosoms of the lowest valleys. The human race, like all other animals, in the beginning, was created both male and female, for the obvious purpose of reproduction; and between the period of the fall and that of the flood, we find that mankind had increased to a prodigious amount, owing partly to the very great longevity to which many of the antediluvians attained, and partly to the numerous intermarriages which then took place. All nations even the most unlettered, have some tradition of this disastrous event, which destroyed the whole human race then existing, with the exception of Noah and his three sons, with their wives, who, escaping in the ark, and taking along with them such animals as were necessary for the repopulation of the earth, remained in safety until the ark rested on Mount Ararat, which signifies the "Mountain of Descent," and is one of the highest Mountains in Armenia.

When the waters had subsided, and the face of the earth became again uncovered, Noah and his family took up their abode in the plains of Shinar, where it appears they dwelt in tents, which were the kind of dwellings first adopted, and used until some of their descendants began to build houses. Here Noah pursued the art of husbandry; here his family increased in numbers, and remained for about 150 years, when the confusion of tongues took place, and they were dispersed into different and distant regions of the earth. The confusion of tongues did not affect the issue of Shem or Japhet, but that only of the impious Ham. To describe the routes which the different groups took, is not necessary; but it must appear obvious, that, as the descendants of Shem and Japhet yet understood each other, they would unite into small societies, and continue to practise those arts which had already been acquired; while the descendants of Ham, not understanding each other would separate, and degenerate into a state of barbarism. The descent of mankind, originally from a single pair, and the multiplication of the families of Noah, may be proved, by arithmetical calculation, to have been sufficient to supply the earth with its present number of inhabitants; nay, had not wars, plagues, and famines reduced the population, their descendants alone would have over-peopled the world.† Here, there-

* Hebrew calculation.

† "Various are the ways," says Stackhouse, in his History of the Bible, "which have been attempted by learned men to show the probable increase of mankind. For our present purpose, it will be sufficient to suppose, that the first three couples, i. e. Noah's three sons and their wives, in twenty years after the flood, might have thirty pair; and, by the gradual increase of ten pair for each couple, in forty year's time, there would, in three hundred and forty years after the flood, have arisen a sufficient number to spread colonies over the face of the whole earth."

In some parts of North America the population is supposed to double itself every twenty-five years. In the year 1717, the Russian subjects were computed at not more than 10,000,000; in the year 1762, a space of forty-six years, the numbers were 20,000,000. This is doubling, in no favourable climate, and during even the devastation of many bloody wars. With

fore, we shall simply explain how the multiplication and dispersion of the families of Noah gave rise to numerous nations.

SHAM, THE SON OF NOAH.—His sons were: Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

The region to which they migrated.—The south part of Asia.

The nations to which they gave rise.—The Assyrians and Persians,

HAM, THE SON OF NOAH.—His sons were: Cush, Mizraim, Phut, and Canaan.

The regions to which they migrated.—Africa and the West of Asia.

The nations to which they gave rise.—Cush gave rise to the Ethiopians, and American tribes; Mizraim, to the Egyptians, Cyrennians, and Lybians.

JAPHET, THE SON OF NOAH.—His sons were: Gomer, Magog, Madia, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

The regions to which they migrated.—North of Asia and North of Europe.

The nations to which they gave rise.—Gomer gave rise to the Gauls, Germans, and Celts; Madia to the Medes; Javan to the Ionians and Greeks; Tubal, to the Spaniards; Meshech, to the Muscovites; Tiras, to the Thracians.

Besides the direct dispersion of mankind through the regions of the globe specified, they were occasionally dispersed to detached islands by accidental causes. Cook, Forster, and other celebrated travellers, have remarked, that parties of savages in their canoes must often have lost their way, and been driven on distant shores, where they were forced to remain, deprived both of the means and of the requisite intelligence for returning to their country. Thus, Captain Cook found on the Island Wateoo three inhabitants of Otaheite, who had been drifted hither in a canoe, altho' the distance between the two Islands is five hundred and fifty miles. In 1696, two canoes, containing thirty persons, who had left Anconso, were thrown by contrary winds and storms on the island of Samar, one of the Philippines, at a distance of eight hundred miles. Captain Beechy, in his late voyage to the Pacific, fell in with some natives of the Coral Islands, who had been in a similar manner carried to a great distance from their native country. They had embarked to the number of about a hundred and fifty souls, in three double canoes, from Ara, or chain Island, situated about three hundred miles to the eastward of Otaheite. They were overtaken by the monsoon, which dispersed the canoes; &c, after driving them about the ocean, they were left becalmed, so that a great number of persons perished. Two of the canoes were never heard of, but the other was drifted from one uninhabited island to another, at each of which the voyagers obtained a few provisions; and at length, after having wandered for a distance of six hundred miles, they were found, and carried to their home in the Blossom. Kotezbue, when investigating the coral isles of Radack, at the eastern extremity of the Caroline Isles, became acquainted with a person of the name of Kadu, who was a native of Ulea, an isle fifteen hundred miles distant, from which he had been drifted with a party. Kadu and three of his countrymen one day left Ulea in a sailing boat, when a violent storm arose, and drove them out of their course; they drifted about the open sea for eight months, according to their reckoning

the rapid increase of the population of Great Britain, every person is well acquainted; but how much faster must men have multiplied at the period we are considering, when the climate was more favourable, the habits of men less sophisticated, and fewer checks to population existed!

by the moon, making a knot on a cord at every new moon. Being expert fishermen, they subsisted entirely on the produce of the sea, and, when the rain fell, laid in as much water as they had vessels to contain it. Kadu, the best diver, frequently went down deep into the sea, where it is known that the water is not so salt. Thus, with a coco-nut shell, with only a small opening, he occasionally relieved their want. When they reached the isles of Radack, every hope, and almost feeling, had died within them; their sail had long been destroyed; their canoe had long been the sport of winds and waves; and they were picked up by the inhabitants of Aur, in a state of insensibility; but by the hospitable care of those islanders, they soon recovered, and were restored to perfect health. "Accidents similar to these (says Professor Lyell) might suffice to transport canoes from various parts of Africa to the shores of south America, or from Spain to the Azores, and thence to North America; so that man, even in a rude state of society, is liable to be scattered involuntarily by the winds and waves over the globe, in a manner singularly analogous to that in which many plants and animals are diffused." There is yet another fact connected with the dispersion of man worthy of our notice, because it explains how he may have emigrated into countries which appear now far separated from each other. There is no doubt that the whole aspect of the globe has, in the course of ages, undergone the most remarkable changes, owing to the action of the water breaking down the land, against which its waves constantly heave; and owing, also, to the action of volcanos, which, it is well known, have uplifted hills, and even vast ranges of mountains; and islands, and groups and clusters of islands. Hence there is every reason to believe that the continent of America was once united with that of Asia: for while the destructive action of the waters is impressed visibly on the American coast, Asia, from the earliest periods, has been subjected to the most violent earthquakes. Voltaire has triumphantly asked how man could have emigrated into North America; but, independent of the explanation just given, navigators have discovered that the north-east part of America is very nearly connected with the north west part of Asia, the distance between the coasts being so trifling, that both men and animals may even yet pass across without much difficulty. Thus does the progress of knowledge triumph over the doubts and errors which our ignorance and credulity too often upraise; nor do we despair of a time when truth will establish her dominion, and one faith prevail throughout the world.

(To be continued.)

THE BEST EDUCATION.

It is in youth as in after life, that vicious propensities are best counteracted, not by stern precept and rigid law, but by turning the feelings and passions into a purer channel, by giving a higher object to generous ambition, by centering the active energies on more worthy pursuits; by teaching them, in short, to find their highest gratification in mental and moral culture. Let a man's pride be, to be a gentleman—furnish him with elegant and refined pleasures, imbue him with the love of intellectual pursuits and you have a better security for his turning out a good citizen and a good christian, than if you had confined him by the strictest moral and religious discipline, kept him in innocent and unsuspecting ignorance of all the vices of youth, and in the mechanical and orderly routine of the severest system of education.—*Quar. Review.*