

CONCLUSION.

Having now accomplished the plan which we proposed as a guide in our inquiry after the origin of the North American Indians, with as much fidelity as the limited nature of the present work would permit, we shall once more direct the attention of the reader to this subject before we abandon so curious and agitated a question. Of all the races into which the great human family is divided by peculiar features in the constitution of their bodies, as well as by the characteristic qualities of their minds, the Aborigines of the American Continent have afforded the antiquary the widest field for research and inquiry concerning their original extraction. Amid this uncertainty and obscurity which hang over the early history of the American Indians, the most extravagant conjectures and the wildest theories have been formed in order to arrive at the original of this strange and singular people. Almost all the nations of the earth have been ransacked to account for the peopling of the new world. While some have presumptuously asserted that they are descended from some remnant of the antediluvian inhabitants of the earth, who survived the deluge on the summit of some lofty mountain in the southern regions of America, others have vainly imagined that it was here Adam and Eve drew the first breath of life, and that hence all the other portions of the earth received their inhabitants. In the absence of historical records, of which the Indians had none, conjecture and hypothesis have inevitably formed the frail and only foundation on which authors have built their various theories.

It is truly amusing to see how readily the human mind sometimes espouses any cause, however absurd, when the novelty of the plan is in any way alluring or captivating. If we credit the fanciful inventions of historians, we are to believe, that the Jews, the Canaanites,