

*Treatment of the Women.*

maintenance in the winter months, is wonderfully well adapted to the support of the aged and infirm.

*Of their Treatment of the Women.*

In this, as in most uncivilized countries, the principal part of the labour falls upon the women, who, by being inured to carry and haul heavy loads from their childhood, and to do all manner of drudgery, are well fitted to the most laborious employments; and on this account those men who are capable of maintaining several women, generally find them humble and faithful servants, affectionate wives, fond and indulgent mothers. Custom seems to render this mode of life easy to the generality of women, whose wants are comprised in food and clothing only. These women are the mildest and most virtuous of the females among the tribes of North America. Here the principal motive among the men to marriage is, that they may have a partner in the excessively laborious employments, while the softer endearments of a conjugal life are considered only as secondary objects.

The humiliating state in which the Northern Indian women are kept, cannot be exhibited in any way stronger than by observing the method of treating them at meals, though custom makes it sit light on those whose lot it is to bear it. When the men kill any beast, the women are sent to bring it to the tent, by whom every operation of splitting, drying, pounding, &c. is performed. The women cook the victuals, but, though of the highest rank, they are never permitted to partake of it till all the males, even the servants, have eaten what they think proper; and in times of scarcity it is frequently their lot to be left without a single morsel, and should they be detected in helping themselves during the business of cookery, they would be subject