

NOTE LI. p. 322.

I HAVE observed, p. 297. that, for the same reason, they never attempt to rear children who are feeble, distorted, or defective in their make. So deeply were both those ideas imprinted in the minds of the Americans, that the Peruvians, a civilized people, when compared with the barbarous tribes whose manners I am describing, retained them; and even their intercourse with the Spaniards has not been able to root them out. When twins are born in any family, it is still considered as an ominous event, and the parents have recourse to rigorous acts of mortification, in order to avert the calamities with which they are threatened. When a child is born with any deformity, they will not, if they can possibly avoid it, bring it to be baptized, and it is with difficulty they can be brought to rear it. Arriaga Extirpac. de la Idolat. del Peru, p. 32, 33.

NOTE LII. p. 325.

THE number of the fish in the rivers of South America is so extraordinary, as to merit particular notice. "In the Maragnon," says P. Acugna, "fish are so plentiful, that, without any art, they may take them with their hands." p. 138. "In the Orinoco," says P. Gumilla, "besides an infinite variety of other fish, tortoises or turtle abound in such numbers, that I cannot find words to express it. I doubt not but that such as read my account will accuse me of exaggeration: but I can affirm, that it is as difficult to count them, as to count the sands on the banks of that river. One may judge of their number by the amazing consumption of them; for all the nations contiguous to the river, and even many who are at a distance, flock thither at the season of breeding, and not only find sustenance during that time, but carry off vast quantities both of the turtles and of their eggs, &c." Hist. de l'Orenoque; ii. c. 22. p. 59. M. de la Condamine confirms their accounts, p. 159.

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