

have selected it sometimes from one author, sometimes from another, as I found them most satisfactory, will be perceived by those who have a sufficient knowledge of the subject. In dubious cases, where I had no other means of arriving at a clear decision, I have taken the opinion of a man\* who has lately developed this history, with all the penetration of an Englishman, and the assiduity of a German. I have, however, in some instances of little consequence, found it necessary to correct even him.

I have more than once expressed the maxim, that instructors should not expose the weak side of humanity too frequently to children; but rather endeavour, as much as possible, to conceal it from them, in order that they may not imbibe the dangerous notion, "If other people practise such follies and vices, how can it be expected that I alone should be an exception."—The one or the other of these propositions, will now perhaps subject me to the accusation of having

\* Robertson's History of America.

deserted