

In Upper and Lower Canada, extending
to the Company's Territories, perhaps, 26,000
The numbers in New Brunswick, Nova-
Scotia, &c. I have no means of ascer-
taining. They have been estimated at . . 28,000

To which we may add the above mentioned regions north and west of the Western Territories. Perhaps a total of 5,000,000 would cover the whole amount. And then, there is to be added to this sum the Indians of South America, where they are perhaps more numerous than in the North.

From these statements the reader will at once conclude that this interesting race of men must have been fearfully diminished from what in all probability they were before visited by white men. The cause of this diminution has been matter of much inquiry and conjecture by many philanthropists. It ought to be first considered, that most probably they were not originally so numerous as might be at first imagined, especially in the northern regions, where the first visitants found them more warlike than in the southern. For although the regions in which they wandered were immense, yet the population was thinly scattered. Robertson says, their women seldom had more than two or three children; and, in consequence of their difficulty in raising subsistence, they, in many cases, destroyed their children, and always their old people; and it is doubtless the case, that great numbers of their progeny have become amalgamated, and swallowed up in the white population. There is doubtless much guilt resting upon the heads of wicked, unprincipled men in introducing European vices among them, especially that of drunkenness, in a more refined form. I add this qualification, because it appears, prior to the visits of the white man, the South Americans had the art of extracting intoxicating drinks. And then the vast numbers which were cut off in the West Indian Islands, and in South America, is matter of history. But whatever amount of guilt rests upon white men, the main causes of their paucity of numbers is rather