

HISTORICAL NOTES
RESPECTING THE
INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA.

CHAP. I.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE CHARACTER OF
THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS — OPINIONS OF
VARIOUS WRITERS ON THIS SUBJECT.

THE manners and customs of the Indians of North America have often furnished matter of curious and interesting inquiry. From the period when that portion of the Western hemisphere was first discovered, or rather from that in which the earliest European settlers established themselves upon its shores, the attention of various authors appears to have been drawn towards the delineation of those peculiar qualities which so strongly marked the native tribes by whom that continent was inhabited. Nor was the attention of those writers less directed, perhaps, to the discovery of the probable root from whence the American population had originally sprung. This question, indeed, has given rise to much discussion; and history, both sacred and profane, has been ingeniously referred