

CHAPTER II.

THE NUMBER OF THE INDIANS.

WHAT number of Indians might have inhabited the vast regions of the new world at the time when it was first visited by the white voyagers, is absolutely uncertain. Even if the population were very scattered, it must have been very great, considering the wide extent of country they possessed; if indeed, which is probable, a great part of it were not uninhabited. The following is an estimate of the number supposed at present to be contained in North America:—

Within the United States,	330,937, viz:
Within the Indian Territory* 47,733†	
East of the Mississippi	81,904
West of do. but not within the	
Indian Territory, . . .	201,300

Besides the numbers inhabiting the vast uncultivated regions north and west of the Western territories of the United States. According to a moderate estimate, the whole numbers of Indians in North America, exclusive of Mexico, is 1,800,000
In Mexico, 2,600,000

Total, 4,400,000

This estimate, it appears, does not include the Indians belonging to the British possessions; which may be estimated as follows:

Mr. M. Taggart says, in the N. W. Territory and Hud. Bay Company, the number is, 939,000

* For a description of the Indian Territory, see chap. 8.

† In 1839, the number was stated to be 95,000. Some other bodies from the United States, must have removed; which, by reducing the number in the United States, would leave the total number the same.