Lyers of different coloured clay. Near the flore the bud is low and marthy, covered with trees of various torts : and within land are large plains, with lutle herbage except mofs, interfperfed with tufts of trees, and tonic lakes. In the country are a great variety of throbs and plants, with many of those known in Europe, as the goofdeerry, current, and cranherry, firawberries, an-golica, wild autientas, favine, many of the Lapland plants, and others that are unknown to us. There are great quantities of wild rice by the fides of the lakes and rivers ; there is also long grafs and good meadow ground, and at the factories are tolerable gardens, especially at To chart, Jahany, and Moofe-river, where molt kinds of English garden-fluff grow very well, as beans, peas, cabbages, turnips, and many kinds of fallads. Farther within land the country is much more limitful, the fummers warmer, the winters florter, and lefs fevere. There are many forts of minerals here : lead-ore is faid

to be found in plenty on the furface of the earth near Churchill-Fort : iron ore is likewife to be met with, and the natives who live to the northward frequently bring pieces of copper to that factory. There are likewife a great variety of tales, ipars, and rock-cryftals of differ-ent colours, as red and white, the former refembling rubies, and the latter, which are very transparent, thooting into pentangular praims. In the northern parts is found a 1 and of coal ; the afbeflos, or ftone-flax, is common here ; and allo a ftone of a black, fmooth, and thining furface, that eafily feparates into thin traniparent leaves, which the natives ule as looking-glafies. The country likewife abounds in various kinds of marble, fome speckled with green, blue, and red ; and others perfectly white.

Among the animals are deer, rabbits,, beavers, and other beafts ; with a great variety of birds, as fwans, wild-geef., plover, ducks, and many others that fly to the northward in the fpring to breed, and return to the fouthward in autumn. There are likewife eagles, hawks, partiidges, pheafants, crows, and owls.

As the inhabitants of this country are cloathed in the fkins of beavers, and as the principal trade confifts in those skins, with which they have fupplied us by means of the Hudion's-bay company, it will be proper to give here a defeription of that curious animal. A large beaver is about twenty-eight inches in length, from the hind part of the head to the root of the tail, and weighs fixty or feventy pounds, but their colour is different ; in fome places they are black, in others white, and in others almost of the colour of the deer. The beaver lives to a great age ; the females generally bring forth four young ones at a time. Their jaws are furnished with two cutters and eight grinders ; the upper cutter is two inches and a half in length, and the lower fomething longer. The upper jaw projects over the lower one; the head is fhaped like that of a rat, and is fmall in proportion to its body ; its fnout is long, its eyes fmall, and its ears tharp and round; its legs are but about five inches in length, with paws formed like a man's hand; but the hind-fect are webbed like the toes of a goofe. The tail is fhaped like the blade of a paddle, and is four inches broad where it joins to the body, five or fix in the middle, and three at the extremity : it is about fourteen inches in length, and about an inch in thicknefs. It is covered with a fealy skin, the feales being near a quarter of an inch long, and fold over each other, like those of a fish.

The ancient writers of natural hiftory are miftaken in afferting, that the beavers bite off their tefficles when purfued by the huntfmen; for what the phylicians call eaftoreum, is the inguinal glands of this animal.

The industry, forefight, and good management of thefe animals is extremely furprizing, and fearce eredible to those who never faw them. When they want to form a fettlement, three or four, or mor. of them, affemble together, and first pitch upon a place where they may have provisions, fuch as the bark of trees, particularly roots, or grafs, with every thing necessary for creeting their edifices, which must be furrounded with water; and if there be neither a convenient lake nor pond they make one, by flopping the coorfe of fome brook, or river, with a dam. For this purpole they cut down trees, above the place where they are refolved to build, and take

their meafures fo well, as always to make the tree fall towards the water, that they may have the less diftance to roll it, when they have cut off the branches. This done they float it to the place appointed, and these pieces they cut bigger or lefs to fuit their convenience. Sometimes they die the trunks of large trees, which they lay flat in the water; at others they faiten flakes in the bottom of the channel, and then interweaving finall branches, fill to the vacancies with elay, mud, and mofs, in fuch a manner, as renders the dam very tight and fecure. In thefe works their tails ferve them for carts and trowels, and their teeth for axes; their paws fupply the place of hands, and their teet ferve inflead of oars.

HUDSONS-BAY,

The confiruction of their houfes is no lefs admirable : they are generally built upon piles, at fome diflance from the fhore, but tometimes clofe to the banks of the ravers; the first make holes at the bottom of the water for planting fix pofts, upon which each of their edifices is built in a most curious manner ; their form is round, with a flat roof; the walls are two feet thick, and fometimes more ; they are formed of the fame materials as the dams jull mentioned, and every part is fo well finiflied, that no air can polibly enter ; about two thirds of the edifice is raifed above the water; in this they lodge, and are care-ful to keep it clean. They have generally three or four different avenues to each houfe, which they enter under water. To provide provisions against the winter, they draw the flicks they cut from the trees, and thrufling one end into the mud, let them lie under the water to preferve the bark green and tender for their winter provisions, There are fometimes found eight or ten beavers in one houfe; at others not more than three or four; and let them be as numerous as they will, they all lodge upon one fluor.

When the fnows melt and raife the fiream, they leave their dwelling, and leparate till the feafon returns for repairing them, or for building new ones, which is in the month of July. The Indians lay traps for the beavers in the paths they frequent, and bait them with frefh-cut poplar boughs, which they are very fond of. Sometimes the Indians open the ice near the beaver-houles, at which opening one Itands, while another difforbs the hoafe; when the beaver hallening to make his efcape at the peaing, feldom fails of having his brains beat out the moment he raifes his head above the water.

The beavers are excellent food, but the tongue and tail are the moft delicious parts. The Indians for etimes roaft thefe animals in the fame manner as we do pigs, first burning off their fur.

The coafts are frequented by feals, and the rivers and lakes have very large flurgeon, pike, and trout; with two very delicious kinds of fifh; the one called tit; mag, the other refembling an cel, fpotted with yellow and white, and called by the natives muthoy : thefe are reekoned fatteft in winter, when they are caught by making holes in the ice, and letting down a baited hook, at which the fifh greedily bites. At the mouths of the rivers, efpecially those more to the north, are plenty of fine falmon, trout, and a fifh called a fucker, which refembles a carp. There comes in with the fload tide a great number of white whales, which might eafily be taken.

## SECT. II.

The Perfons, Drefs, Manners, Cuffons, and Religion of the Indians on the woffern Ceaft of Hudfon's bay; with a De-fription of York Factory.

THE natives are of the middle fize, and or a structure colour: they have black eyes, and long, lank, They colour: they fastures vary as in Europe. They black hair ; but their features vary as in Europe. are of a chearful difpolition, good-natured, affable, friendly, and honeft in their dealings. In fummer the men are clothed in a clofe coat made

of blanket, which they buy of the English fettled in their neighbourhood. They have a pair of leather flockings, which reach fo high as to firve alfo for breeches, and they make their flues of the fame materials, The

## ILUDSON'S-BAT

The cloaths o only in their gen comes a little lo apparel is made with the hair or per habit are get ders, to that the are exposed to th to their health : inois chiefly arif tuous liquors, w a melancholy tru ments of the I kennels, becom able to encounte thole who live active.

They dwell i kins fewed toge bably on account middle. They at the bottom, an an opening is 1 inoke. They trees, and lie wi to the fides of th the fouth-welt f of the skins, to v it flap clofe.

They have no of the earth, but in hunting or cat a prodigious flau opinion that the will fuecced : he hundred dead on and leaving their by the wild beaf the water, and b tories. They al eagles, hawks, cr wild-geele, and e and eat it by itfe which they effect manner they drei Thefe ignoran

they are influence of rectitude, that and injustice, as The chicfs of cvi cholen from an ufually for their s and their valour engage, direct th ferent employme through deference gation.

They have, ho

very whimfical, a is effectied a great legs of a man v even think it ber fel with their wi mult appear fhoel they are in fom The latter, as ha fornia, expose th infirmities of old voured by wild b for when their p fupport themiely their children to is effeemed an ac marner : the old it, and after havi haps drank a dra them that he is thong about his

the other oppofite

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The Bearer

referched.