



THE NATIVE RACES OF NORTH AMERICA.

THE name Indians, given to the native races of America, commemorates the mistaken idea of its discoverers, that they had reached the shores of the Asiatic continent. A short account of these races, and of their character, custom, and tribal divisions, is necessary in order to understand the long and cruel conflict between the white man and the red for the possession of the New World.

All over the North American continent, from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, are found the remains of an extinct and pre-historic people. These remains consist, for the most part, of earthen mounds, often of vast extent and almost countless numbers. Hence their unknown creators are called the Mound-Builders. These strange structures may be divided into two classes: Enclosures and Mounds proper. The chief purpose of the Enclosures seems to have been for defence—the formation, as it were, of a fortified