

CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

THERE remained in this island to within the last thirty or forty years, as in every other part of America, a proportion of the population which it is impossible to contemplate without the most painful feelings. Europeans, when they first began to form their fishing establishments, found on the coast a considerable number of natives belonging to a particular tribe called Red Indians. This colour, which they exhibited still more decidedly than the races on the continent, is ascribed by M. Chappel to the use of a vegetable juice with which their whole body was carefully anointed. This I consider to be an error, for, instead of being vegetable, or any other juice, it is a pretty well established fact that it was a species of red ochre which they used. An island at the mouth of the Exploits River abounds with that description of earth or chalk, and is, by the oldest inhabitants long located there, pointed out as the spot where that people used to be seen coming for supplies of that material, a quantity of which would generally be found about their wig-