

narrow, steep passage that lies near the brink of the river.

At a little distance from this dreary cavern is the burying place of several bands of the Naulowessie Indians. Though these people have no fixed residence, living in tents, and abiding but a few months on one spot, yet they always bring the bones of their dead to this place, which they take the opportunity of doing when the chiefs meet to hold their councils, and to settle all public affairs for the ensuing summer.

Ten miles below the Falls of St. Anthony the River St. Pierre, called by the natives the Walapawmenesator, falls into the Mississippi from the West. It is not mentioned by Father Hennipin, although a large fair river: this omission, I conclude, must have proceeded from a small island that is situated exactly at its entrance, by which the sight of it is intercepted. I should not have discovered this river myself, had I not taken a view when I was searching for it, from the high lands opposite, which rise to a great height.

Nearly over-against this river I was obliged to leave my canoe, on account of the ice, and travel by land to the Falls of St. Anthony, where I arrived on the 17th of November. The Mississippi, from the St. Pierre to this place, is rather more rapid than I had hitherto found it, and without islands of any consideration.

Before I left my canoe I overtook a young prince of the Winnebago Indians, who was going on an embassy to some of the bands of the Naulowessies. Finding I intended to view the falls, he agreed to accompany me, his curiosity having been often excited by the accounts he had received from some of his chiefs. He accordingly left his family (for the Indians never travel without their households) at this place, under the care of my Mohawk servant, and we proceeded together by land, attended only by my Frenchman, to this celebrated place.

We could distinctly hear the noise of the water fall fifteen miles before we reached the falls; and I was greatly pleased and surprized when I approached this astonishing work of nature—but I was not long at liberty to indulge these emotions, my attention being called off by the behaviour of my companion.

The prince had no sooner gained the point that overlooks this wonderful cascade, than he began with an audible voice to invoke the Great Spirit, one of whose places of residence he imagined this to be. He told him that he had come along way to pay his adoration to him, and now would make him the best offerings in his power. He accordingly

first threw his pipe into the stream; then the roll that contained his tobacco; after these, the bracelets he wore on his arms and wrists; next an ornament that encircled his neck, composed of beads and wires; and at last the ear rings from his ears. In short, he presented to his God every part about his dress that was valuable—during this he frequently snote his breast with great violence, threw his arms about, and appeared to be much agitated.

All this while he continued his adorations, and at length concluded them with fervent petitions that the Great Spirit would constantly afford us his protection on our travels, giving us a bright sun, a blue sky, and clear untroubled waters; nor would he leave the place till we had smoked together with my pipe in honour of the Great Spirit.

I was greatly surprized at beholding an instance of such elevated devotion in so young an Indian, and instead of ridiculing the ceremonies attending it, as I observed my catholic servant tacitly did, I looked on the prince with a greater degree of respect for these sincere proofs he gave of his piety;—and I doubt but that his offerings and prayers were as acceptable to the universal parent of mankind; as if they had been made with greater pomp, or in a consecrated place.

Indeed the whole conduct of this young prince at once amazed and charmed me. During the few days we were together his attention seemed totally to be employed in yielding me every assistance in his power; and even in so short a time he gave me innumerable proofs of the most generous and disinterested friendship, so that on our return I parted from him with great reluctance. Whilst I beheld the artless, yet engaging manners of this unpolished savage, I could not help drawing a comparison between him and some of the more refined inhabitants of civilized countries, not much, I own, in favour of the latter.

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MISCELLANY.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

*Of the first peopling of America.*

NUMBER I.

**O**F all the various subjects of speculative enquiry that have hitherto consumed the time, and given vent to the learning of the curious and inquisitive, that of the first peopling of America must undoubtedly challenge a place in the time and attention of every American philosopher. When we contemplate this mighty empire, just commencing

her career—pervaded by an host of advantages, which have but transiently prevailed over the other nations of the earth, we cannot but morally conclude, that her existence will be glorious, and her duration reach forward to a period that will in time remove in the ages of nature; and that her records will continue to be inexhaustible sources of example and instruction, not only to the surrounding, but nations yet unborn. The human mind, when expanded upon this agreeable and august range of future probabilities, must frequently be making excursions in a contrary direction, by investigating the original of the first inhabitants of a country that bids so fair to be mistress of half the globe.

Various and voluminous have been the theories which have been thrust into notice upon this engaging and curious enquiry, and which as uniformly have been encountered with such formidable objections, as still to leave the enquiry in full vigour.

Previous to the advancement of any new theory on this subject, every existing and contradictory one becomes necessary. But lest I should exceed the bounds of a newspaper publication, I shall confine myself to that one which has generally obtained, and as it were to have swallowed up all the rest. I mean the north-west of Europe, and the north-east of Asia, which, from their proximity to America, have drawn the stream of conjecture in their favour, as being the only avenues through which the new world was furnished with inhabitants.

Let us examine for a moment, whether the contiguity of either the north-east of Asia, or north-west of Europe, will sufficiently satisfy the several enquiries, which will necessarily arise from a survey of America, when first discovered by the Spaniards.

First then, with respect to the north-east of Asia. We will find, that the Russian court, [agreeable to the ideas of Peter the Great, of opening a trade with America, had considerably extended the boundaries of his empire to the west and the east of the naked and ragged regions of Siberia] so late as the year 1740, with infinite trouble and difficulty, fitted out two vessels on the sea of Kamkatka, on a voyage of discovery. The whole of the information coming from this undertaking, is barely this, that each of the commanders discovered land which they conjectured to be part of the American continent. This, it appears the commanders, and arose from a similarity of manners and customs in some islands to the American, which they also discovered, some where contiguous to the supposed American continent. Again we had,