

rests entirely upon the knowledge and veracity of a single missionary, and corroborating conjectures, together with the unaccountable similarity, which the reader will now proceed to observe is of no force. It has been the misfortune of the greater number of missionaries to have sucked in a chaos of inconsistencies in their religious education; and faith, the offspring of a confused and untrained imagination, was viewed as incompatible with reason, and consequently became the principal regulator of their actions. No wonder, then, that they should tell us of a race of people in the Oriental islands, who were ornamented with tails resembling that of the American beaver; and of a tree whose leaves turned into alligators; and of the monstrous Patagonians who overtopped the Corinthian colossus; and of a race to the east of Japan, whose feet in both shape and size exactly resembled an European umbrella, and could invert their common standing position, to perpendicular exactness, by means of a horn they shot from the crowns of their heads, flung feet into the ground, while they adjusted their pedestal roofs, so as to remain, for days together, dry and secure against the greatest storms of hail and rain. I say, when missionaries could make such curious and important discoveries, it is not hard to admit that a Lutheran priest should pass from Greenland to the Esquimaux, and so find the way by which the progeny of Noah passed, in order to stock the new world with inhabitants. But that the refutation may be more complete, let it be admitted that the above facts are true, and that recent discoveries puts the existence of such communications beyond the reach of doubt. This will be extending the sphere of the argument to the utmost possible stretch. By this we shall unhappily find, will be only extricating ourselves from a few difficulties to get entangled in a multitude: for by what ingenious theories shall we account for the various kinds of animals found in America, and numbers to which the Europeans were perfect strangers.—Herds of wild beasts fly the society of men, instead of pursuing it, as this case must necessarily suppose, unless we allow the brutal creation first instructed the rational world in the art of navigation. If we allow they were created upon the spot, without being transported from the old world, therein I will agree, which you shall find presenly. Besides, is there any colour of probability to suppose, that the animals and fowls peculiar to the tropics, should herd themselves in bands, and shape their course to the naked and frozen regions of the north east and north west, in order to penetrate into the yet more horrid wastes of the northern

parts of America, and then pass on to the correspondent latitudes which they had forsaken in the old world? Such a wild and unaccountable pilgrimage might be predicated of man, who is guided more than two thirds of his time by the impulse of passion; but that the brutal and feathered creation, who are under the steady and unerring operations of interest, should make such an extraordinary manoeuvre, is altogether repugnant to every thing on this side of miracle. But to go on. How comes it to pass, that a single black was never discovered in America, in all that immense tract of country stretching from the Esquimaux to Cape-Horn, notwithstanding that colour abounds in various parts of Asia as well as Africa? Furthermore—how is it that the empires of Mexico and Peru were such a great distance before the rest of the Americans, in politure and knowledge, when an immense country, in the temperate zone, and in every point of view inviting a permanent settlement, must necessarily be run over, in order to get under the scorching tropics, and that this desirable country, which had the fairest opportunity of gleaning the most wealthy of the emigrants in their journey, should be only replenished with the wild and roving savage, enjoying in the great scale of things, but a naked remove from the ferocious animals amongst whom they surjourned? Further—can we suppose, that such infinite multitudes, as were necessary to people the new world, with all its dependences, could pass either from Europe or Asia, when the science of navigation was scarcely known in either of the places; and a lengthy period of time (comprehending ages) suffered to roll on, and accompanied with astonishing naval improvements, and repeated attempts directed to this very point, and yet the orphan possibility of a communication be only the discovery of yesterday. Surely to admit this, would put common sense to the blush, and reason, as ashamed, must stop her mouth!—I know the mind, accustomed to rational discussion, and but moderately acquainted with the history of society, will spurn at such nourishment as this. Let us, for a moment, view the absurdity a little farther on. That an extensive and inviting continent, with an infinite number of dependencies, should be discovered, and all Europe and Asia be struck with the spirit of emigration, until all was filled with people, when the mighty and interesting event, together with the knowledge of the route, should perish from the memory of all flesh! This is too much!—However, let us add a few interrogatories, that the absurdity may yet be more swelled. Was this the case when the

Danes first discovered the island of Great-Britain? was there any thing like this when Julius Caesar made a descent upon the same place? or how was it in the discovery of America by Columbus? Does not the negative of all the interrogatories beam forth in all the cases, and in the last to an astonishing extreme? or in fine, is there any thing to be found in the history from Adam to General Washington, that will ever countenance such a position? I answer, NO.

A MODERN PHILOSOPHER.

LAWS OF THE UNION.

CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES,

AT THE SECOND SESSION.

Began and held at the city of New-York, on Monday, the fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

An act making further provision for the payment of the debts of the United States.

WHEREAS, by an act, entitled, “an act for laying a duty on goods, wares, and merchandise, imported into the United States,” divers duties were laid on goods, wares, and merchandise so imported, for the discharge of the debts of the United States and the encouragement and protection of manufactures: and whereas the support of government and the discharge of the said debts, render it necessary to encrease the said duties:

BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that from and after the last day of December next, the duties specified and laid in and by act aforesaid, shall cease and determine, and that upon all goods, wares, and merchandise (not herein particularly excepted) which after the said day shall be brought into the United States, from any foreign port or place, there shall be levied, collected, and paid the several and respective duties following, that is to say: Madeira wine, of the quality of London particular, per gallon, thirty five cents; other Madeira wine, per gallon, thirty cents; Sherry wine, per gallon, twenty-five cents; other wines, per gallon, twenty cents; distilled spirits, if more than ten per cent. below proof, according to Dycas’s hydrometer, per gallon, twelve cents; if more than five, and not more than ten per cent. below proof, according to the same hydrometer, per gallon, twelve and an half cents; if of proof, and not more than five per cent. below proof,