

The natives are a quiet peaceable people, and not very loquacious; but from their exhibiting human skulls and bones for sale, they are suspected of cannibal habits. To Europeans, however, they shew themselves courteous and good-tempered; quick, indeed, in resentment, but as rapidly forgetting its cause. The young men are indolent; and when not engaged in fishing, which is their chief employment, are generally found sitting about in scattered companies, or basking upon the sandy beach, destitute of apparel. The women are always clothed, and behave with due decorum and reserve. Their ingenuity in the manufacture of their garments is far from contemptible; and they have great skill in the imitative arts.

The people of Nootka are generally robust and well-proportioned, but with less symmetry than most other Indians of North America.

The houses of these people are made of very long and broad planks, resting upon the edges of each other, tied together with writhes of the pine bark; and kept in their position by some slender upright posts on the outside, and some larger poles, set aslant within.

CANADA.

THIS country, on the north-east side of America, is a British possession, but the population is mostly of French descent; and the French language is generally in use. The

government is free; and Christians of all denominations are tolerated. Learning has made so little progress, that few of the natives can either read or write.

The higher classes of Canadians much resemble those in the provincial parts of England and France; but the occupiers of the land, who are termed *habitants*, differ from both. They are described as "honest, hospitable, religious, inoffensive, uninformed, possessing much simplicity; indolent, attached to ancient prejudices, and, limiting their exertions to the acquisition of necessaries, negligent of the conveniences of life."

At an early period of life, the Canadian is healthy and robust; but his strength is not of long duration, and he soon looks old. His natural love of indolence and spirit of independence makes him a bad servant; though, as a master, he is kind and indulgent. Accustomed to concern himself only in his own affairs, he is not remarkable for constancy in friendship; and is rarely liable to be overreached in traffic.

The opposite extremes of heat and cold are experienced in this country. The winter, which is of about seven months' continuance, is the season of general amusement: all thoughts of business are then laid aside, and every one devotes himself to pleasure. Convivial parties, dancing, and card playing, with other social amusements, are resorted to at this period; or, by means of sledges, called *carioles*,

they glide over deep snows and frozen rivers with surprising celerity.

At the beginning of winter, the *habitants* kill hogs, cattle, and poultry, sufficient to serve them till spring, as well as to supply the markets. The carcasses they either store in the garrets of their houses, where they soon become frozen and keep without injury; or they bury them in the snow, and dig them out as wanted. Vegetables are preserved in a similar manner. The markets are at this season most abundantly supplied.

UNITED STATES.

THE population of this immense republic was for the most part originally British; yet, from peculiar circumstances, the present inhabitants have obtained characteristics, and adopted measures, differing from those of the parent state.

The several states are all united under one general government, called a Federal Republic. Each State has also a government of its own, and is at liberty to make laws relative to its own peculiar interests; but the more general concerns of the nation, as the regulation of commerce, the declaration of war, the coining of money, &c., are entrusted to a general government. The wisdom of American statesmen, and the free spirit of the people, have developed the principles upon which these harmonious, and beautiful

institutions are based; raised those institutions to a degree of perfection hitherto unexampled, and realized a system of polity more economical, orderly and rational, and more conducive to human improvement, to rational prosperity, and happiness, than any that has yet existed in the world.

In the United States, there is no established form of religion; every individual is left to the free enjoyment of his own religion, and is at liberty to worship God, agreeably to the dictates of his own conscience.

In almost every other country, there is some religion established by law, and it was reserved for the law-givers of the United States to set the example of dispensing with a State religion. The result has shown, that christianity is rather injured, than served, by those costly establishments, which so often abridge, or extinguish free enquiry, or liberty of conscience, and degrade religion into an engine of civil tyranny, or the ally of ignorance and imposture. In the large towns, and populous places of New-England, New-York, and Pennsylvania, religious instruction is more faithfully and abundantly dispensed, and religious ordinances are more strictly, and universally observed, than in any other country in the world. In the newly settled districts, where a small population is spread over a wide surface, the means of religious instruction are often deficient.

There are upwards of forty colleges, or universities, in the United States, of which, Harvard and Yale are the most

celebrated; but most of these, are less perfect than the kindred establishments in Europe.

Public provision, to a greater or less extent, is made in almost all the States for the support of common schools. In the old States, funds have been set apart for this purpose, from time to time, out of the public taxes or property. In the new States, one square mile in every township, or one thirty-sixth part of all the lands, has been devoted to the support of common schools, besides seven entire townships for the endowment of large seminaries. Throughout New-England, the means of education are generally ample; and a grown person unable to read or write, can scarcely be found. In the Southern States, where they are more deficient, a zealous attention to the subject has been lately awakened; and families in sequestered situations unite to procure teachers for their children at a great expense. In all the New-England States, except Rhode Island, the towns and townships are divided into districts of convenient size, in which schools are supported at the public expense, and thus the means of elementary instruction are placed within the reach of all the inhabitants. In the Middle and Eastern States, the people are more universally educated than in any other part of the world; and there is every probability that the Western and Southern States will soon share in the same distinction.

It is to this circumstance, to the superior degree of com-

fort the people enjoy, and to the elevation of character nourished by their republican institutions, that we must attribute the non-existence of any class in the United States, to which the term mob, populace, or rabble, can be applied.

Among the inhabitants no striking difference of condition any where exists. A boundless spirit of enterprise pervades society from top to bottom, and a high feeling of self-respect exists in the very humblest classes.

The English have been justly characterised as an eminently humane people, and their American descendants have not lost this noble trait of the British character. The number of benevolent and charitable institutions, of societies for the relief of the poor and suffering, for the education and support of destitute children, for the instruction and reform of convicts, for the diffusion of good morals and religious instruction, for the spread of christian knowledge in heathen lands, and it may be said without exaggeration, for every humane purpose, is no where greater than in this country. Hence the hospitals, the poor houses, the orphan asylums, the mad houses that have been studied by the nations of Europe, and which are found in every section of the land.

One of the characteristics of the United States, is the astonishing number of newspapers, representing almost every political, social, moral, and religious interest, that occupies

the attention of the community. Their number is nearly fifteen hundred.

The Americans have been eminent for mechanical inventions, of which the steam-vessel by them first applied, at least, to practical purposes, is a conspicuous example. The cotton-gin of Whitney may almost rank with it in value. Many improvements in the machinery for the manufacture of cotton, have been already introduced from America into Europe, and that of the woollen-mills in this country, is much superior to any thing applied to the same purpose elsewhere.

Literature and science are of but recent origin, yet they have already made rapid progress, and America has already produced some works, which take their place among the classic compositions of the old world. The Americans have shown a very strong natural genius for painting, though their artists have been obliged to resort to the old world for study.

MEXICO.

SOUTH-WEST of the United States is the country of Mexico, which, till within these few years, was a Spanish colony, but is now independent. Roman Catholicism is the established religion; and it has been calculated that one-fifth of the Spanish settlers are ecclesiastics, monks, or nuns. Education is partially afforded to the inhabitants by

the university of Mexico, and by some colleges and public schools belonging to the religious orders; but there is no diffusion of any thing like general and practical knowledge. Yet, though literature is in a languid state, the sciences have made more progress here than in any other part of Spanish America.

The Mexicans are of good stature, well-proportioned, and so free from personal defects, that there is scarcely upon the earth a nation in which fewer deformed persons are to be met with. They employ much of their time in eating, having no less than eight meals a day, in which chocolate is a very considerable article. The passion for strong liquors is carried to great excess; and all the ladies smoke small cigars.

The Spanish inhabitants are commonly clothed in silks; their hats being adorned with belts of gold, and roses of diamonds: even the slaves have bracelets and necklaces of gold, silver, pearls, and gems.

The Mexican Indians, taken collectively, offer a picture of extreme misery.

The senses of these people are very acute, especially that of sight, which they enjoy unimpaired to the latest age. Their constitutions are sound, their health is robust; and, though most of them die of acute diseases, it is not uncommon for them to attain the age of a hundred years.

The Mexicans manifest a particular taste for painting, as

well as for the art of carving in wood and stone; and their aptitude for imitation is very great. With only a bad knife, they make well-finished toys, and carve images out of the hardest wood.

Notwithstanding the long residence of the Roman Catholics in this country, who have endeavored by treachery, violence, and cruelty, to make converts, the natives still retain many of their ancient practices. When a person dies, the corpse is dressed in a habit suitable to his rank, wealth, or circumstances. With the habit, they give the defunct a jug of water, and different pieces of paper, with directions for the use of each. With the first they say: "By means of this, you will pass, without danger, between the two mountains which fight against each other." With the second, he is told, that he will "walk without obstruction, along the road, which is defended by the great serpent; and so of the rest." A domestic quadruped, resembling a little dog, is killed, to accompany the deceased in his journey to the invisible world.

SOUTH AMERICA.

BRAZIL.

This province, till lately, belonged to the king of Portugal, and partook of the same absolute species of government. It is now, however, independent. The religion is Roman Catholicism. Education has been much neglected; and literature, with the arts and sciences, can scarcely be said to exist here.

The European settlers are in general gay, and fond of pleasure; yet extremely observant of the ceremonies appropriated to the Virgin Mary, whose effigies are stuck up in a glass case at every corner. Convents and monasteries are numerous; manufactories rare.

The country people, who are not engaged in mining, live in small mud cottages, covered with tiles, or with the leaves of *carnauba*. Hammocks usually supply the place of beds, and not unfrequently are substitutes for chairs. The best cottages are furnished with a table; but it is more usual for the family, at meal time, to squat upon a mat in a circle on the floor, with the dishes, bowls, or gourds, in the centre. Knives and forks are not much known, and not at all