

some of them eight and ten times larger than the tapir, &c. of the former. And this general fact, as to size, is further corroborated, by all the animals which have been transported from Europe having become less, and also those common to both continents being much smaller in America than those of Europe. In this new world, then, there must be something in the combination of the elements, and other physical causes, which opposes the aggrandisement of animated nature ; there must be obstacles to the development, and perhaps to the formation of the principles of life. Under this sky, and on this vacant land, even those which, from the benign influence of other climates, had received their full form and complete extension, lose both, and become shrivelled and diminished. These extensive regions were thinly inhabited by a few wandering savages, who, instead of acting as masters, had no authority in it : for they had no controul over either animals or elements ; they had neither subjected the waves nor directed the motions of rivers, nor even cultivated the earth around them ; they were themselves nothing more than animals of the first rank, mere automaton, incapable of correcting Nature, or seconding her intentions. Nature, indeed, had treated
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