

**SMALL BOOKS ON GREAT  
SUBJECTS. NO. XIV. ON THE  
STATE OF MAN BEFORE THE  
PROMULGATION OF  
CHRISTIANITY**

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Small Books on Great Subjects. No. XIV. On the State of Man before the Promulgation of Christianity by Various

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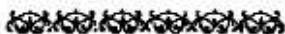
**Small Books on Great Subjects.**

EDITED BY A FEW WELL WISHERS

TO KNOWLEDGE.



N<sup>o</sup>. XIV.



ON  
THE STATE OF MAN BEFORE  
THE PROMULGATION OF  
CHRISTIANITY



*Comwallis,*  
*(Cardine Francus)*

LONDON  
WILLIAM PICKERING  
1848







ON  
THE STATE OF MAN BEFORE  
THE PROMULGATION OF  
CHRISTIANITY.

INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE history of man as a race is like that of an individual, marked by particular epochs in which the very character of his existence undergoes a change, and in which, notwithstanding that his passions, affections, and appetites, remain the same, their object is so far changed that the mature man and the boy are not more dissimilar than the people of one age are from those of another.

Such changes are generally accompanied rather than caused by a political convulsion as great as the moral one; so that when the men of the succeeding generation glance back towards the days of their fathers, they find themselves

separated from them by a chasm so immense, that the objects on the other side look dim and strange. We have a good example of this sort of moral earthquake almost within our own days: the twenty-five years of revolution and warfare in Europe which followed upon the popular outbreak in France, in 1789, seemed to place an interval of centuries between the last and the present age. Science, language, manners, dress, habits of life and thought, governments and boundaries of countries, have all undergone such a change, that the books of the eighteenth century are now only to be regarded as curiosities, which may tell what was the state of the world in that apparently remote time when steam was but an indication that water was boiling, and chemists prattled about phlogiston; when fowling-pieces were primed from a powder-horn; when there was but a mule road over the Alps, and the transit to India occupied six months; when men wore laced coats, and women hooped petticoats; and when Richardson's lengthy novels, and Hume's meagre history, were held up as patterns of perfection in their way. It needs but to look through a library formed in the last century to show that the completeness of this revolution of ideas and