

the appellation of the *American pole-cat*, and by M. Brisson, by that of the *striped pole-cat*. Besides those mentioned by Hernandez, there is a fourth kind of these animals called *zorille*, in Peru, and in some parts of the Spanish settlements in India.

We are indebted to M. Aubry for the knowledge of the *squash*, the *skink*, and the *zorille*; the two last may be regarded as originals, as we do not meet with their figures in any other author.

The first of these animals came to M. Aubry under the name of *pekan*, the *Devil's child*, or the *wild cat* of Virginia. I perceived it was not the real *pekan*, but the same animal that Hernandez has described by the name of *ysquiepatl*, and which has been indicated by travellers by the name of *squash*, or *potot*. (fig. 185.) It is about sixteen inches long; its legs are short, its muzzle rather pointed, its ears small, its hair of a deep brown, and its claws black and sharp. It chiefly dwells in the hollows and clefts of rocks, where it brings forth its young. It lives upon small animals, birds, &c. and often steals into a farm yard, where it kills the poultry, but eats only their brains. When it is pursued or offended, it calls up the most diabolical scents to its defence,