
14. THE ALCO.

We have already observed that there were in Peru and Mexico, before the arrival of the Europeans, domestic animals called *alco*, which were of the same size, and nearly of the same disposition, as our small dogs; and which the Spaniards called *Mexican* or *Peruvian dogs*, from this similitude, and from their having the same attachment and fidelity to their masters. In fact, the species of these animals does not seem to be essentially different from that of the dog; and besides, the term *alco* may probably be a generic and not a specific term. Recchi has left us the figure of one of these *alcos*, which is called *ytzcuinte porzotli* in the Mexican tongue; it was prodigiously fat, and probably degenerated from its domestic state and too great an abundance of food. The head is represented so small, that it has not any proportion to the size of the body; its ears are hanging, which is another mark of domesticity. The muzzle resembles that of a dog; the fore-part of the head is white, and the ears are partly yellow. The neck

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