

over-estimated. On the other hand, the one who is quiet and diffident, who seems to feel within himself that the writer of the paper has greatly over-estimated his good qualities, has in fact given him a character much better than he has deserved, will generally be found to exceed anything which may be written of him. These things were brought to mind by the frequency with which these papers were presented to our notice by the red man. He had in some way found out the advantage of a written character, if that character was good. We suppose, in the first instance, that some trader or traveller, wishing to benefit an Indian whom he had found to be trustworthy and accommodating, had, by way of recompense, given him a written character. The red brethren were quick to see the advantages conferred on the possessors of these mysterious papers, who were greatly envied. Every possible means were used to secure that, which on presentation to the traveller, never failed to secure a quantity of flour, bacon and tobacco, according to his means. All who kept a journal, and their names was legion, were pertinaciously pestered with gutturals, signs and bad English for this, the most desirable of Indian worldly goods. Under these circumstances, it is not in the least surprising that the issue of this kind of paper was enormous, and the depreciation greater than was suffered by Uncle Sam's greenbacks during the most gloomy period of the rebellion. Evidently the issue of a paper currency was something new to the "noble red man." He could not understand why the paper failed to bring forth the quantity of provisions that it used to. Travellers were certainly as plentiful as ever; they were, in fact, more so, and the papers in many cases much larger. How then did it come that the white brother had grown so contracted in his views in regard to quantity? It never for once entered the savage comprehension that to give daily to the possessors of from twenty or more papers, a magazine would soon be emptied, to say nothing of a prairie wagon. Some of these papers do not give to the owner the character which he, in his ignorance, supposes. We remember of having one presented to us by a big fellow with a chest like a working ox. The look of ineffable satisfaction with which it was presented was supremely ridiculous when contrasted with the contents of this rather novel written character. It ran something like the following:

The Bearer of this paper—Wah-he-hum—is the biggest murderer, thief and scoundrel out of hell, and the most notorious liar west of the Missouri, so don't believe a word he says

ISAAC LANGSHANKS.

It is p
 somethin
 when the
 does not
 utter dis
 to be tha
 was willi
 self in t
 punishme
 from him
 was all t
 voluntari
 to somet
 his breth
 altogethe
 much, so
 might be
 anticipat
 brother v
 without
 expended
 would fa
 however,
 nature.
 and edit
 set the s
 motion.
 of beggin
 through
 to say n
 often vis
 why, the
 which se
 and me
 emigrant
 soon get
 the big-
 as if he
 connecte
 the sign