

"Much has been said about civilizing savages, before attempting to evangelize them. This is a theory which has obtained an extensive prevalence among the wise men of the world; but we have never yet seen a practical demonstration of its truth. It is very easy in a country of high refinement to speculate on what might be done among rude and savage men, but the Christian Missionary, the only experimentalist, has invariably found that to make the fruit good, the tree must first be made good, and that nothing less than the power of Divine grace can reform the hearts of savages, after which the mind is susceptible of those instructions, which teach them to adorn the Gospel they profess, in their attire as well as in their spirit and actions. . . . The Gospel alone can lead the savage to appreciate the arts of civilized life, as well as the blessings of redemption."

The following reports from Indian Missions, and others in past years, very cogently convince the Committee that the Society's practice is scriptural and efficient; and when so many distant and expectant pagan tribes now want its services, unflinching adherence to this tried practice, and implicit dependence upon God, are present and perpetual duties. Many a scene of Christian order and of beauty has been beheld in association with the patient labours of this Society's Missionaries among Indians; and to sustain their spiritual hopes, the Lord of the whole earth is still saying to them in their toils—"I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: that they may see and know, and consider; and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it."

From NEW CREDIT several letters during the year, and not an annual report, have brought intelligence only in part encouraging. The location is physically unfavourable, immoral white men have furnished temptations, and the school was somewhat discouraging; still, the very useful efforts of the Rev. David Wright, for the Indian classes and school and neighbourhood have greatly benefitted a people, for whom, at the old Credit, some of the best zeal of the Wesleyan Church was expended, and among 118 Members there is much true piety and social proficiency.

The oldest Mission of the Society, GRAND RIVER, is regularly reported by the Rev. Thomas Fawcett as being prosperous. The Church premises have been improved, a small church erected by the Indians has been opened in the interior of the Reserve, the Sabbath School is doing good, and he

says: