

The Indians pay so little regard to the cultivation of the soil, and appear so devoid of thought or foresight in providing for their future wants, and are so prodigal and so destitute of arrangement in conducting their own affairs, that by some they are thought incapable of living like men in a social state; therefore they are looked upon as children, to be kept continually under the direction and control of superiors. But neither the prodigality, indolence, nor idolatry of the Indian is to be attributed to his want of intellect. Though the pagan may bow down before the idol he paints with blood, still he has powers of mind capable of receiving instruction in the great principles of religion, and of understanding its mysteries, knowing its power, and enjoying its comforts.

They, too, may be taught habits of industry. Also, they evidently have faculties of mind, if properly cultivated, to acquire such a thorough knowledge of the arts and sciences as will qualify them for the various offices of civilized life.

In the Indian character we see many peculiarities; but these are not to be attributed to anything peculiar in the faculty or constitution of his mind, but to other causes. His head may be covered with long black hair, tangled in Gorgonic confusion, but in his countenance you may see depicted a rugged honesty, and a fantastic earnestness; and in his address a wild humour, and sometimes a still wilder pathos, peculiar to the Indian,—perhaps, in some cases, bordering on savage boldness.