

comforts and enjoyments of the enlightened, have been practised and the results enjoyed by them. The light of revelation has beamed in upon their souls, and caused them to exchange the blind worship of the Great Spirit, for the rational worship and service of the God of the Bible. Schools have been established. An alphabet of the language invented by one of their own men; instruction sought and imparted; and letters cultivated in their own as well as the English language.

Hence many individuals have advanced even to the refinements of civilized life, both in respect to their physical and intellectual condition. A John Ross stands before American People in a character both of intellect and heart which many of the white men in high places may *envy*, yet *never be able to attain*. A scholar, a patriot, an honest and honorable man; standing up before the "powers that be," in the eyes of heaven and men, now demanding, now supplicating of those powers a regard for the right of humanity, of justice, of law—is still a scholar, a patriot, an honest and honorable man; though an Indian blood coursing in his veins, and an Indian color giving hue to his complexion, dooms him, and his children and kin to be hunted at the point of the bayonet by those powers, from their home and possessions and country, to the "Terra incognita" beyond the Mississippi.

I now leave this point on which perhaps I need not to have spoken, thus briefly, from the fact that it is granted by all of you as soon as announced, and proceed to make a few remarks confined more exclusively to my own kindred tribe, a part of whom live near this city.

Taking it as clearly true that the Indians are susceptible of cultivation and improvement, even to the degree of physical, intellectual and moral refinement, which confers the title of civilized and christianized. I now proceed to consider whether their condition and feelings are such as to render feasible, the undertaking to bring them up to *that degree*—whether in fact they do not themselves *desire* to come up to it. When I say *they* I mean those who constitute the body and stamina of the people. As to this point, I take it upon myself to say that such an undertaking *is* feasible, and doubly so from the fact that the object of the undertaking is earnestly desired by themselves.

I know of no way to set this matter in a clearer light than by presenting you with some facts as to the spirit and the advance of improvements amongst them. And this I crave the liberty of doing by a brief detail of items, prefacing the detail by the remark of a