

branches of the great tree. All their skill and agility are needed to enable them to seize it, as they are being swept rapidly under it by the torrent. With quick and combined movement Sam, the Indian, and Charles, the halfbreed, seize the projecting branch, and the Bishop and his party are saved. (Sketches of the life of Mgr. de Mazenod and of the labors of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Vol. II, p. 331 ssq.)

One of the greatest difficulties the Fathers had to contend with, in evangelizing the Indians, was the abuse of intoxicating liquors, which has worked such havoc among the natives, tribe after tribe disappearing under its baneful influence. But neither the checks and safeguards which exist among civilized men to arrest the progress of the evil, nor the state laws and high-handed measures enacted and adopted by the American and Canadian Governments, succeeded in so efficacious a manner as the religious influences which the missionary Fathers brought to bear upon the tribes under their guidance. Father Chirouse mentions a notable incident in proof of this:

"We are happy to be able to bear testimony to the fidelity with which our Catholics keep their temperance pledge. They hold whiskey and the American traders who sell it to them in abhorrence. Last spring a schooner, laden with a cargo of whiskey, approached the coast near the village of Madison, where the Etakmurs were encamped. It remained for several days at anchor in front of the village. During that time several attempts were made by the traders on board to sell their whiskey to the Indians. Some pagans purchased it and got drunk. The Catholic Indians, fearing the influence of bad example, requested the master of the vessel to withdraw from their shores. He refused