

1. All the different tribes of Indians whom I met, heathen as well as christian, appeared fully aware that the time was rapidly approaching when they must alter their mode of life. Hunting has become exceedingly precarious: the wild animals along the shores of the Lakes and even in the interior, are extremely scarce or rather nearly extirpated: fish, though generally abundant in the Lakes, fails at certain seasons; and the superior comfort of the Indians already settled, and of the few whites who are permitted to remain among them as artisans, has not been unobserved. But their disposition to rove and not to remain in one place, continues to prevail. They have a great antipathy to steady labour or occupation, although not now insensible to the benefits it confers. It is nevertheless a great advance, that they have become convinced of the greater comfort of fixed habitations. Their reason is now with us, though their habits remain against us; and therefore these habits should be our principal object of attack: not perhaps openly and still less in an overbearing spirit, but gently, cautiously, and by degrees. It is a forward step to persuade them to continue in one place a portion of the year, and during that time much may be done, in a variety of ways, to weaken their wandering habits. The general impression which they now feel that they cannot live much longer as formerly, proves that the time has come for the Church to put forth all her energies to bring them to Christ, and I trust the government will not be slack in granting us substantial assistance.

2. The Indians are all anxious to have their children educated, and are not unwilling to leave them in the Missionary settlement, if they can be supported while they themselves are absent on their hunting expeditions. These children are found as apt to learn as those of the whites, and acquire the common branches of instruction and expertness in the mechanical arts with equal facility. There is an excellent School of Industry for Boys and Girls at the Mohawk Village on the Grand River. The Boys are taught useful trades,