

of restraint, goes far to prove the almost impossibility to bring these people to industrious habits by inducement alone; nor need we be much surprised at this if we look at them in their native state. They inhabit a country whose climate makes no approach to the extremes of either heat or cold, and where especially the latter is never felt, and consequently the want of clothing, fuel and even of lodging, are as nothing, compared to what are felt in less genial climates. Fuel for their culinary purposes, for which alone it is required, and the materials for their dwellings, which are generally open all the way round, though very well and neatly roofed and thatched to defend them from the rains, are furnished in abundance by the forests that surround them. Of clothing, their absolute wants are inconceivably small; and that of the tribes who inhabit the interior is so scant, as scarcely to be consistent with the most distant approach to decency. They possess an immense tract of country, where every individual may select at his pleasure the site for his dwelling and the land for the cultivation of his provisions; there he can provide a sufficient quantity for himself and family by the labour of a few days in the year; nor are his crops subject to much vicissitude; it is only in very extraordinary seasons that they fail him; such was the case last year, when the almost incessant rains for the greater part of the year destroyed their crops, in consequence of which they suffered considerable privation in the latter end of the last and beginning of the present year, much aggravated too by the swollen state of the rivers and creeks rendering it difficult to obtain any fish from them. That state of things, I am happy to add, has for some time ceased, and they are now in the enjoyment of their usual abundance. In addition to the produce of their Cassada and Yam Fields, and of the inexhaustible supply of fish and game, which in ordinary seasons the rivers and creeks and the forests furnish them, they have resources in a vast variety of seeds and roots and fruits of the forest; and it was to these they were chiefly indebted for their means of subsistence during the late scarcity. What, then, it may be fairly asked, is to induce a people so situated—a people whose wants and wishes are so bounded, and those wants so easily supplied, to adopt habits of industry, and to apply themselves to continuous labour? The answer of the political economist (and it is a just one) to this question would be—the introduction of new wants among them; but here we are met by difficulties of no small magnitude, in the attachment so natural to all, but especially to the uncultivated classes of mankind, to the manners, customs and habits of their forefathers; and which I am persuaded is so deeply rooted in these people (even to a degree we can hardly form an idea of) as to lead them to look with an eye of perfect indifference on what we consider the superior comforts and advantages of more civilized society. It is gratifying, however, to remark amongst those Indians that reside nearer to and have more intercourse with the European settlements, some departure from their aboriginal habits, and consequent approach towards civilization, in the improved dress of both sexes, and especially of the females, all of whom have adopted the use of petticoats (generally made of calico or some other European manufacture), and some of them have also the upper part of their persons clothed; the men too are occasionally clad in shirts and trowsers;—here there is a new want produced. I might mention also the strong desire of every man among them of being possessed of a good fowling piece and the requisite ammunition, and the absolute necessity of a supply of axes, cutlasses and hoes, to clear the woodlands and plant their provisions; and if I add their fondness for saccharine matter, whether in the shape of sugar or molasses, and (what I fear may be considered rather a detriment than an advantage to them) for ardent spirits, I have nearly summed up the whole of the wants they have borrowed or learned from us. But few as they are, they have produced their natural results in a commensurate increase of industry. Their usual method of supplying them is by the sale of staves, heading and hoops, all of excellent quality for sugar casks, which they cut and prepare in the woods, and convey to the plantations, as well as by the sale of articles of their native manufacture, such as packals, ferns, sifters, bows and arrows, &c. &c. all of which are made with great neatness, and lead one to believe that these people possess a natural aptitude to handicraft employments, and that they would make excellent tradesmen if they could be brought to apply themselves steadily. And here, having adverted to the fondness of the Indians for ardent spirits, I may be permitted to make a digression with a view of correcting what I believe to be a mistaken notion which has got abroad, that the Indians are decreasing in number, and that this decrease is owing to the intem-