

# LETTER

TO A

## MEMBER OF CONGRESS,

&c.



RESPECTED AND DEAR SIR,

HAVING understood, by a letter from Washington, that the impression has been uttered on the floor of Congress, that "Indian Civilization forms no part of the objects of Missionary Institutions," and that "the establishments at Brainerd and Elliot are a miserable farce," I would respectfully invite your attention, for a moment, to the following facts and remarks.

The objects of the United Foreign Missionary Society, are to civilize and christianize the American Indians ; and the Managers are convinced, from their own experience, as well as that of kindred Institutions, that each of these objects can be more easily and successfully attained, when combined, than when separately attempted. The history of eighteen centuries testifies, that no pagan nation ever became civilized to any important degree, until it had renounced its idols, and abandoned the whole train of superstitious rites connected with its idolatrous worship ; and that no one ever became evangelized without acquiring, in some measure, the arts and habits of civilized life. Whether the object, therefore, be to civilize or christianize, both must be carried on with an equal