

Through the medium of these persons, who are actively intelligent, ought certainly all benefits, or what may be intended as such, to be conveyed to them. Their ingenuity appears to be limited to the composition of trifling articles of bark and porcupines' quills, and to have long been at its zenith of improvement. Their honesty, which is exemplified in many instances, appears to arise from apathy; and if the remaining few possessed activity enough to follow their brethren, the Province would be altogether relieved of a useless, idle, filthy race, whose disposition to ramble, and distaste to all social comforts and civilized life, will ever leave them in their present degraded state. One instance will suffice to shew the impossibility of enticing the Indians to any plan suggested by our ideas of decency and comfort.

The government of Massachussets granted to about 50 families, under the immediate inspection of a respectable missionary, 200 acres of excellent land, improved ready for their use; and as a farther inducement, built for them a chapel. Ten years have these people held their fair possessions, witnessing the progress of the surrounding settlers, from poverty to respectable ease, without the least effort to benefit by their example. These, their characteristic traits, are unalterable. They hunt, clothe, and build, the same as usual, and I believe not one of them shews the least disposition to the mechanic arts.

Should any further attempts be necessary to improve them, would they not be most usefully employed in improving the roads, or forming new ones? in felling and clearing new lands, preparatory to settling them? In thus giving them labour proportionable to their present habits, their wants might, without