

often, sinks and is lost when thus killed in or near the water. They have not, as yet, wholly lost their independence of all the white man's arts, and are the only remaining aboriginal people on the continent who, if the white man of to-day were to be swept away, as were the first they saw in the eleventh century, would still be self-supporting and wholly independent of outside aid, and it seemed as though, when the curtain was lifted by arctic explorers of the latter half of the last and the first half of the present century, giving us glimpses of their life in their icy homes, that in these frigid solitudes, aboriginal man had at last found a permanent resting place, but we have seen that this is not to be the case, and he must do battle with intoxicants and the diseases which have decimated nearly all of his kind on the continent, and die out without we can bring to him the blessings as well as the curses of civilization and economize him in some way to the public and his own good, unaided by the strong arm of the government this cannot be done. Intoxicants, arms of precision and its ammunition he must *not* have; and this restriction our government can and should effect; the gospel must be preached to him to undo the evil already accomplished, and this end reached, it may be asked, "What then?" The answer is this, leave him to pursue his avocations till the time comes to economize him as a hunter, a boatman or pilot, the best of assistants to a northern explorer. We know not yet what mineral riches are encased in these rocks within the arctic circle, but we know that when, if ever such riches are discovered, there exists the coal on the arctic coasts of Canada and on her islands of the great northern archipelago to reduce and transport it. We know that vessels of the size of the United States war steamer "Thetis" can with safety reach a secure Canadian harbour near the mouth of the Mackenzie; Count Sainville, an amateur explorer, tells us of another harbour within the mouth of that longest of Canadian rivers with navigation for crafts of less draught, and uninterrupted navigation is known to exist for fourteen hundred miles southward. So that when the time comes, as come it will, that we may use the arctic natives in work pertaining to what may yet be a great commerce, it will be found that their powers of resisting cold and skill on the element to which they are bred from their earliest youth, will render them possibly a very important factor in the future development of arctic Canada.

That much may be done to elevate them while interfering but little with their mode of life is evident from the success of the Greenland missionaries and of the devoted brethren and others on the Labrador coast, and all who know of them will hope for this Inuit people—the most interesting, as they are certainly the most homogeneous and widely extended of all of the aboriginal tribes of either continent—that all the safeguards which a government can give will be thrown about so peculiarly situated a portion of her aboriginal people, and that the gospel may be preached to these dwellers of the white north, whose future for good or ill Providence has placed in our hands as wards of the Canadian people.