

they were favored with preaching by the Rev. Mr Treat of Eastham, also in their own language. Three other congregations were on Nantucket. The names of the four English preachers were Eliot, Mayhew, Cotton and Treat.

In 1698, fifty years after Eliot commenced his mission, the number of converted Indians in Massachusetts was 3,000; which must have been a considerable part of the adult population. The pious Indians would, from a variety of causes, be likely to live longer than others, and would be less likely to emigrate; and this may account for their comparative number.

Eliot's Bible was printed in 1663. The second edition was published in 1685. This was the first Bible in any language printed in this country; and the only one that was published previous to 1697. Thirty-five hundred copies are all that were ever printed of it. The people for whom it was designed have no longer any being. I know not whether the Stockbridges could read it, as it was printed in a different dialect; and their language has probably undergone a considerable change since that day. Eliot published several elementary books in the Indian language, together with Baxter's Call. A young Sachem is said to have read Baxter's Call, with floods of tears, on his death bed.

Thomas Mayhew, son of Thomas Mayhew, governor of Martha's Vineyard, commenced a mission on that Island in 1641. Meeting with great success, he sailed for England, in order to obtain more labourers. No tidings were ever heard of him. It is supposed the vessel was cast away, and that all on board perished. The father then entered the field, where he continued till 1681, when he died at the age of 91. He was succeeded by his grandson, John Mayhew, who died in 1688, and was succeeded by his son Experience Mayhew, who, with a perfect knowledge of the Indian language, continued his missionary labours sixty years. At the close of the last century, the Mayhew family had the honour of having produced an unbroken succession of missionaries upon Martha's Vineyard for a century and a half—a greater honour than was ever possessed by any nobleman's family.

It does not appear that our fathers made any direct efforts to convert the Indians of Maine. The first settlers of that country were actuated much more than those of Plymouth and Massachusetts, by motives of gain; and were far less under the influence of godliness. The history of their intercourse with the natives is therefore a history of incessant warfare. The French Jesuits, however, had a mission among the more

eastern tribes, particularly the Abenaki, who adopted the religion of Rome.

A native preacher has been for some years employed by the Board, among a portion of this tribe in Canada, who are Catholics; among whom he has gathered a church.

Philip's war exerted a disastrous effect upon the missions among the Indians. King Philip suspected all who had any friendship for the English; and the praying Indians, of course, were the objects of his hostility. But the Christian Indians experienced hostility from a quarter where they least expected it. The people generally knew very little about the Christian Indians. Under the influence of intense alarms, all distinctions were lost sight of. Some of the Christian Indians were murdered in cold blood; some were put to death, under the form of law; and at length, the court ordered a general removal of them to an island in Boston bay. Five hundred Christian Indians were gathered, and in fact imprisoned there; and when at length they were released, it was with a feeling of discouragement and despondency from which they never fully recovered. The war in one way or another, broke up many of their villages. The Indians now in New England are about 2,400 in number. Of these, about 900 are in the eastern part of Maine; about 700 in the southern part of Massachusetts; about 500 in the southwest part of Rhode Island; and about 400 in the southeast part of Connecticut.

In reference to the facts to which I have briefly alluded, several reflections present themselves:

1. The great success which attended these missions. By the labours of Eliot alone, a strong impression was made among the Indians, all over this part of the country.

And the missions among the Aborigines of this country, have generally been among the most successful. There is nothing to prevent it from being so now, but the ever varying circumstances in which they are placed. Such is the constant state of excitement and irritation among them, produced by the efforts of our Government to remove them into the wilderness, and by the injuries they receive from the whites, they are kept in a state of mind exceedingly unfavourable to the influence of the gospel, or to any improvement. It is on this account that we are now making efforts to throw ourselves far off from the voice of civilization, and let the Indians hear nothing but the voice of the missionary. * *

We should be admonished of our duty to the Indians of our day. Although the process of annihilation is going on, and we are forcibly admonished that what we do must be done quickly; yet the Indians among whom we have missions are more