

the Indians, unless it be made by a whole tribe together, or at least by such a number as may form a society among themselves, and, by the effect of mutual example, preserve the improvements which they have acquired.

In a nation of wandering hunters, it would serve little purpose to convert one of them into a complete farmer, while the rest remain with their habits unchanged. But if any considerable number can be induced to make an attempt at cultivation, even on the smallest scale, an important point will be gained.

The natural progress of civilization has always been very slow ; and if we look back to the early history of the most distinguished nations of Europe, we find that they have advanced from barbarism to civilization by steps so minute, as to be almost imperceptible at the time, and that these have succeeded each other so gradually, as to occupy centuries. This progress may be accelerated in some degree, but there is no probability of any solid benefit, unless we follow the order of nature. A very small improvement, generally diffused among a whole tribe of Indians, and firmly established by custom, will facilitate the introduction of farther improvements ; and thus a great change may be ultimately effected, though an attempt to