

the accommodation of the defunct gentleman. This seemed to answer every purpose, only the important element of company and sociality was wanting—no mean one we should suppose, viewed from an Indian stand-point. The Indian belief in this respect is much more cheering than that of the generality of savages. His dead friends are ever before him without appearing to cause him any annoyance from untimely intrusion of body or spirit, nor does the spiritual brother's labors on the hunting-grounds appear to lessen the game or to clash in any way with the rights or prejudices of the living. There is also something beautiful in the care and labor thus bestowed on the dead, who appear not to be considered as dead, but "only gone before." The nature which prompts these kindly offices to the dead is, under proper cultivation, capable of far better things. We may say that only among the Sioux and Cheyennes in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado have we seen what my friend Mr. O'Dwyer would call "these kind of burying-grounds."

Talking about the dead leads us on quite naturally to speak of missionaries and missionary enterprise. From the tenor of our remarks, some persons may consider that we undervalue this very important branch of Christian economy. Such is far from being the case. All honor to the brave men who risk life and limb, who endure privation such as is hardly dreamed of, and who separate themselves from all the endearing and much-prized associations connected with civilization, that they may serve their Maker and benefit their fellow-man. We only think that the channel of missionary enterprise at present followed is devious, uncertain and misdirected, and that the benefits flowing from it are by no means commensurate with the expenditure of money and the wear and tear of human life. There is something about this conversion of the heathen which always puzzled us. The importance of converting him seemed to increase in a wonderful manner with the distance which he was from any civilized place, and the dangers which surrounded the intrepid proclaimer of the gospel only seemed to act as an additional incentive to martyrdom. We cannot for the life of us see the utility of sending missionaries, at vast cost, to India, China, Formosa, the Fiji Islands and Eromanga, when there is so much to do nearer home. The *heathens* of our great cities are nearly neglected; many isolated settlements in our own land are totally overlooked, while the numerous tribes of Western Indians, who have no prejudices to