

annihilated; that the Massachusetts tribe contained about 3,000, but at the settlement of Boston, there could not have been more than a hundred raised in the vicinity; and in Plymouth County not more than 500. Probably there is some exaggeration in these accounts; however, it is certain that the tribes living around Massachusetts Bay were greatly reduced in number and power before the landing of the Pilgrims. Here the Providence of God is to be noted in providing an asylum for his oppressed people, by removing from the vicinity of the place where they were to be settled, a number of powerful and warlike tribes of natives.

The state of Connecticut, east of Connecticut river, was inhabited by the Pequods and Mohegans. Small remnants of these are found in Stonington, Groton, and between Norwich and New London.

The Narragansets inhabited Rhode Island; of whom a remnant is found at Charlestown, 40 miles S. W. of Providence. The Pokanokets of Plymouth County made themselves terrible to our fathers in Philip's war. Remnants of this nation are found at Troy, in Bristol County, at Sandwich and Marshpee, Barnstable County, and on Martha's Vineyard. The Massachusetts nation around Boston and extending into the interior, among whom Eliot labored, have now entirely disappeared. The Pawtuckets, extending from Salem to Portsmouth, have also disappeared. In Maine, there are two or three remnants of other tribes. Altogether the number of Indians now in New England does not exceed 2,400.

There is, however, another remnant of the Mohegan tribe, which is the most civilized of any tribe in North America. When the eastern hostile excursions of the Five Nations was checked by the growing power of the Dutch on Hudson river, portions of the Mohegans removed to Stockbridge, in the western part of Massachusetts, where they enjoyed the labors of Sargent, and subsequently of President Edwards. These at length removed to New Stockbridge, N. Y.; afterwards a part of them removed to Indiana. The two portions were at length removed by the agency of our government to a tract of land at Green Bay, which has very valuable water privileges; but that being thought too good for them, they were again importuned to remove. They had built houses, and cultivated their lands, and exhibited the appearance of civilization. As might have been expected, they were unwilling to break up their settlements, but after much persuasion, they did remove further south. They have built them houses, and cultivated their fields again; and the mission among them is in a prosperous condition.

But, lately, commissioners have been sent by Government to induce them to remove again, and go beyond the Mississippi! The fact that these frequent removals have not entirely discouraged them from all efforts for improvement, shows that the gospel has taken a strong hold upon their minds and habits.

From Saco, in Maine, to the Hudson river, New York, but one language was spoken; though there were many different dialects. Eliot's Bible was in the Massachusetts dialect of this language.

In commencing a survey of the missionary efforts among these tribes, two things are worthy of notice. 1. In the charter of the Plymouth Colony the principal object of the settlement is declared to be, "to win and excite the natives of that country to embrace the Christian faith." 2. The ancient seal of the Massachusetts Colony had on it the figure of an Indian, with the words, "come over and help us," on a label issuing from his mouth; thus showing that these were designed to be *missionary colonies*.

Eliot began to study the Indian language in 1641. He was then, and continued to be the pastor of the English church in Roxbury, situated on the ground now occupied by the Unitarian church.

In 1646, Eliot commenced his labors at Nonantum, on the high grounds, in the northeast part of Newton. There is a remarkable spring on the grounds of Capt. Samuel Hyde, from which issues a constant stream of the purest water. I have often sat and drank water from this perennial spring, and thought of olden times. Articles once belonging to the Indians have been dug up there. There Eliot began his labors of forty-four years. Finding this too near the English, he induced his Indians to remove and commence a settlement at Natick, on Charles river, where a church was organized in 1661. Some remains of cellars, &c. are still found, considerably south of the Worcester railroad. The grave stone of an Indian preacher is now to be seen in a stone wall.

This mission flourished till the period of Philip's war. Previous to that time, we have accounts of six churches, one at Natick, one at Grafton, one at Marshpee, two on Martha's Vineyard, and one at Nantucket. At the commencement of this war, there were 14 towns, 18 congregations, 24 Indian and four English preachers. The number of "praying Indians" was 3,600. Four of these congregations were in the Massachusetts Colony, and to them Eliot preached once a fortnight. Five were not far from Marshpee, and to them the Rev. John Cotton preached once a week in the native language. Six were on the extreme part of Cape Cod, and