

luxuries to which few of them had aspired, till he showed them how easy it was to make a passage for the smoke, and admittance for the light and air. He next convinced them that warmth might be obtained more healthily than by pigging together for six or seven months in stables, from which the dirt of the cattle was removed but once a year. For their coarse and unwholesome food, he had indeed no substitute, because the sterility of the soil would produce no other; but he pointed out a mode of tillage, by which they increased the quantity: and in cases of illness, where they had no conception of applying the simplest remedies, he pointed out the comfort which a sick person may derive from light and warm soups and other soothing assistance. Still more characteristic of savage life, the women, till Neff taught the men better manners, were treated with so much disregard, that they never sat at table with their husbands or brothers, but stood behind them, and received morsels from their hands with obeisance and profound reverence.

He taught the people of the vallies how to irrigate their lands, so as to increase the grass, which is extremely small. He found the utmost difficulty in explaining to his hearers that the water might be dammed up and distributed accordingly, as it might be wanted for use. The labour and expense appeared to them insuperable difficulties. In spite of their prejudices, he accomplished his object; working with the people as a common labourer, and applying his knowledge as an engineer for their exclusive advantage. By thus teaching them how to double their crops, he saved them from some of their most severe privations. He taught them also how to cultivate the potatoe with advantage. He incited the people to build a school-house in one of the districts where knowledge was

most wanting; and that proper teachers might be spread throughout these regions, so shut out from the ordinary means of education, he persuaded a number of young men to assemble together, one or two from each communion, during the most dreary of the winter months, when they could not work in the fields; during that time to work hard with him in the attainment of that knowledge which they were afterwards to spread amongst their uninstructed friends and neighbours. The perseverance of these young people was worthy of their zealous pastor. To accomplish this good work perfectly, he obtained the assistance of a studious young friend, who was preparing himself for a great public school. Neff's own account of his progress as a school-master is interesting:—

“The short space of time,” he says, “which we had before us, rendered every moment precious. We divided the day into three parts. The first was from sunrise to eleven o'clock, when we breakfasted. The second from noon to sunset, when we supped. The third from supper till ten or eleven o'clock at night; making in all fourteen or fifteen hours of study in the twenty-four. We devoted much of this time to lessons in reading, which the wretched manner in which they had been taught, their detestable accent, and strange tone of voice, rendered a most necessary, but tiresome duty. The grammar, too, of which not one of them had the least idea, occupied much of our time. People who have been brought up in towns can have no conception of the difficulty which mountaineers and rustics, whose ideas are confined to those objects only to which they have been familiarized, find in learning this branch of science. The curious and novel devices which must be employed, have this advantage,—that they exercise their understanding, and help to form their judgment.