

eated" among the French, Scotch, Irish, Dutch, or any others you please, in this country, and you will be struck with their manifest superiority. And pray what nation ever rose at once, and in one generation, to a high state of civilization? Did ancient Greece? Did the Romans? Did modern France and Britain? No, indeed! *Our* boasted civilization has been the slow growth of centuries, and there is still vast room for improvement. Then why require of the Indians in one generation what it has taken us many ages to accomplish?

But it is argued that the hopes of the Missionaries are often doomed to disappointment. Those fine Ojibway pupils of my friend Mr. Seafeld at Shemong, for instance, and other cases too numerous to mention. True, we may answer, but Indians are not alone in this. "Ye did run well, who did hinder you that you should not obey the truth?" "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me." "I looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes." These complaints are of very ancient date, and they apply to every nation, tribe, and people. Alas! for our Churches, our Sabbath Schools, our Educational Institutions, and every department of Christian benevolence and effort, if they must be abandoned on account of great and manifold failures!

But, again, it is gravely objected, that "Indian preachers," even those in whom great confidence has been placed, sometimes fail in the hour of trial, and turn out miserable, wandering vagabonds. I am happy to say that I have not heard of many such cases; and if I had, what would it prove? that the Indian possesses a different nature from the white man? It will not be denied, I presume, that there have been a few cases among the latter of the same kind. Some white ministers have fallen, and those too who had been highly honored, and in whom great confidence had been placed. That the blessed Redeemer should be betrayed by one, denied by another, and forsaken by all, is, alas! not the history of one age only, nor of one place, nor of one little band of followers.

But it is still urged that the Indians will *hunt*; even those good people at Mud Lake, Rice Lake, and Alnwick, continue to go forth into the woods with trap and gun, at certain seasons of the year. Many of them were in the woods when we were there. And "more's the pity," I would say. It destroys them. Enjoying the luxury of a comfortable house for ten months in the year, the cold, wet, and exposure of the woods for two months, kills them off. When they return about the last of November, scarcely one of them can speak above his breath. Colds, coughs, consumption and death, are the penalty which follows. Hence, as I inferred, the far greater proportion of aged women than of aged men, that we every where noticed. The women remain at home.

But white people hunt too; and what would our governors, military officers, judges, lawyers, nay, some of our ministers, say to the doctrine, that an uncontrollable propensity to scour the woods, to shoot moose, to

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