

ous use of them. I myself knew a white man, since dead, who, while residing in the Indian country as a fur-trader, was suddenly deprived of his sight by smoking a pipe into which a minute portion of vegetable poison had been introduced by an Indian whom he had offended, and he continued completely blind till his death. But it is with that utter recklessness of futurity, which forms a prominent trait in the Indian character, that the Missionary has chiefly to contend. Even while, with all the earnestness the subject is calculated to produce, he speaks of that which made a Felix tremble on his throne, all his hopes of having made a favourable impression are often destroyed by his being answered with some unseasonable demand for pork, flour, tobacco, Indian corn, or something else equally connected with their present wants. The following anecdote will serve to illustrate this point: While I was residing at the Sault de St. Marie, I was visited by an Indian from the interior, perhaps thirty days' journey from that place. I gave him and his people some provisions, to supply their present necessities, and invited them to come the next day (Sunday), as I wished to give them their dinner, and, after that, to tell them about the white-man's God. He said they should all come; but, at the time appointed, he alone made his appearance, with his face painted in a most frightful manner. I asked him where were his young men. He said that he had not been able to keep them sufficiently sober to come; but, as he himself had promised to come to me, he had not drunk any spirits. After