

Gospel also to the native Indian tribes of Columbia. (Cheers.) It is a fact, that while over the whole of the British territory the native populations number some 140,000, in Columbia there are not less than 75,000, or the larger portion of that number in that single colony. And these natives of Columbia are somewhat different in their habits from other natives of North America, inasmuch as they have a more settled character, and do not partake of the roving habits of other populations in America; and that is a feature by no means to be overlooked in our efforts to civilize and Christianize them. These natives of Columbia are a people who are described as intelligent, reminding those who have visited both places rather of the New Zealanders, for intelligence and aptness, than the Red Indian or any other people with whom they had been acquainted, and offering the probability—if faithful efforts were made among them by zealous and wise ministers of the Gospel—of an early adhesion on their part to the principles of Christianity and the habits of civilized life. They are, however, in a state at present of the very deepest degradation. There is no doubt that at times they practise cannibalism, and all those terrible superstitions and cruelties which are ever attendant on utter ignorance of the truth and on a debasing idolatry. But with all this these people at present have a respect for the English character. A short time since a ship was wrecked upon Vancouver's Island, an American ship, called the "Swiss Boy." The natives proceeded to destroy the crew; but some one observed that they were not Bostons, but King George's men. Whereupon the Indians took counsel, and for some days hesitated doing any thing, lest they might perhaps do an injury to an Englishman; and after ten days thus spent in council, they came to the conclusion that the crew were not Bostons, but King George's men; upon which they embarked them in canoes, and with delicacy and kindness brought them safe and sound to the British settlement of Victoria. Captain Palliser, who by his recent explorations has shown that a path may be made through the Rocky Moun-