

On this subject, Charlevoix may surely be admitted as a competent witness. No men have more accurately studied the human character than the Jesuits; and their conversion of the natives of Paraguay, and, what is still more to our purpose, the success of their present attempts to civilize and convert the Araucanians, a nation unconquered by the Spaniards, and in the highest degree martial, and jealous of their liberties, is a convincing proof of the wisdom of their system. Their missionaries are never solitary, and therefore are not obliged to sink to the level of the savage state, in order to enjoy the privileges of social life. The Indians, also, whom they educate, are induced to marry and settle around them, under their paternal supervision, instead of being again incorporated with their uncivilized countrymen; among whom, as experience has fully shown, they would quickly lose all that they had gained.