

preserve with remarkable pertinacity, and all their bitter recollections, can admonish them only of the wrongs which they have endured, and the vices which they have observed in the white people.

‘The Indians,’ says Heckewelder, ‘believe that the Great Spirit, knowing the wickedness of the white men, found it necessary to give them a great book, and taught them how to read it, that they might know and observe what he wished them to do and to abstain from. But they, the Indians, have no need of any such book to let them know the will of their Maker; they find it engraved on their own hearts; they have had sufficient discernment given to them to distinguish good from evil, and by following that guide they are sure not to err.’—‘The white men told us a great many things which they said were written in the good book, and wanted us to believe it all. We would probably have done so, if we had seen them practise what they pretended to believe, and act according to the good words they told us. But no! while they held their big book in one hand, in the other they had murderous weapons, guns, and swords, to kill us poor Indians! Ah! and they did so too; they killed those who believed in their book, as well as those who did not. They made no distinction! When the Indians converse on these subjects, observes Hunter, they say, ‘The white men tell Indian be honest: Indian have no prison; Indian have no gaol for unfortunate debtors; Indian have no lock on his door.’

The efforts of the missionaries and of those societies who would really serve the Indians, begin where they should end. If it be possible to save a remnant of this ill-fated people, it will be by first causing benefits which cannot be mistaken, to replace the memory of injuries; by teaching them the value of peaceful habits; by instructing them in the mechanical and agricultural arts, for which their natural shrewdness and sagacity prove them to have capacity; and then they may be finally guided to the knowledge of truth. But how is it possible to anticipate good, while they can form no other judgment of civilization than by the vicious lives of the out-settlers; and can derive no other fruits from commercial intercourse than the poison of ardent spirits, which the traders are suffered to introduce in measureless quantities among them? In the western wilds of our own colonies this evil might at least be put down. With us humanity and policy dictate but one course. As the stream of American population continues to drive the tribes before it, some part of their remaining numbers may be forced northward, within the nominal boundary of our possessions. There the fugitives should find shelter, and protection, and opportunities of social improvement. There the remains of the primitive people of that vast continent might yet be collected; and their settlement