

which attended these efforts, and if their labours were carried on in the same spirit, their red brothers would soon reach a complete civilization.

In British Columbia the natives make excellent herdsmen for cattle; and in the North-west, wherever farm instructors have been sent by Government, they find willing and apt pupils in those whom they instruct.

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THE *Academy*, of November 8th last, contains an article by Walter W. Skeat, on the language of the Micmac Indians, which gives some very valuable information on the origin of certain words in common use amongst us. The writer alludes to the recent publication of an English Micmac dictionary, from which he derives his line of thought. The Micmacs, it may here be said, are a tribe of the Algonquin family, inhabiting the Maritime Provinces of the Dominion, and the work in question was published by means of an appropriation for that purpose made by the Dominion Parliament. Micmac for a house is *wigwom*, which corresponds to our word "wigwam," an Indian residence. A shoe in Micmac is *mkusun*, accented on the second syllable, hence the word "moccasin." An axe is *tumee-gun*, accented on *ee*, hence "tomahawk." A chief is *sakumow*, clearly "sagamore," or "sachem." But the greatest gain to this knowledge is the word *to baakun*, a sled or sledge, hence "toboggan." This the writer asserts is the first really good authority for this origin. Other derivations are worthy of being recorded, and these pages will be open to any hints that can be given towards the origin of many words expressive of Indian articles, but which have crept into every-day use.