

“ approach of civilized man, and to fall before his
 “ renovating hand, and disappear from the face
 “ of the earth, along with those ancient forests,
 “ which alone afford them sustenance and shelter.”

It is a cruel sophism, after debasing a people by bad governing and by hard treatment, to argue from their degradation that they are essentially not fit to share the benefits of civil institutions. You seem to have adopted this narrow view; and, unhappily, the condition to which *a few* of the Indians are reduced, has obscured their finer qualities: their best friends cannot deny the truth of many remarks made to their disadvantage; and proof of their true and natural capacity, if not oppressed, seems sometimes to depend on conjectural reasoning.

But you have done more than speak harshly of *a few* of the Indians in their *present* condition. The past and the future are equally dark in your melancholy estimate of their genuine character and of their prospects. You anticipate the extinction of *all* their tribes; and you declare it to be falling upon them through their own defects. Yet the task is far from difficult, of showing that they are *not* “ exceptions” to the whole race of mankind, whom, in our Bibles, we find declared to be one blood, and for whom our liturgy puts up