

to question its correctness, I can furnish a list with the names of the persons, and the places where the deaths occurred. With this statement before him, no person would doubt the truth of Sir F. B. Head's assertion, had it been applied to the *pagan* Indians, that they "wither, droop, and vanish before us, [like the grass of the forest in flames." But who can for one moment acquiesce in the opinion of the same personage, when he publishes in the ear of the noble Secretary of State for the Colonies, that "*civilization*, producing deaths by consumption, has more than decimated its followers."

The very extraordinary sentence in Sir F. B. Head's "Memorandum," in which he so ingenuously connects the missionaries and the women, I cannot allow to pass without a few remarks. He says, "while as regards the *women*, it is impossible for any accurate observer to refrain from remarking, that civilization, in spite of the pure, honest, and unremitting zeal of our missionaries, by some accursed process, has blanched their babies' faces."

The most obtuse intellect will perceive the tendency of this sentence to induce a certain class of impure minded enemies of religion to chuckle over this *double entendre*. In the most favourable light in which it can be viewed, it exposes its author to the charge of either irony or sarcasm, or both, in praising those women he intended to condemn, who, "under the pretence of eradicating from the *female heart* the errors of a pagan's creed," have "implanted in their stead the germs of Christian guilt;" or otherwise, to a highly censurable want of circumspection, in touching on a subject so delicate in its nature, in a manner painfully indicative of a vitiated taste.

Were the character of the Christian Indian females assailed from some other quarters, I should not deem it necessary to offer one defensive remark; but when it has been attacked by the representative of the crown in this province, the case assumes a serious aspect, and demands a serious examination.

The chastity and reserved deportment, even of those converted females whose former habits were loose and dissolute, are so striking, that the fact is not only the subject of gratifying remarks among those who acknowledge themselves "interested in their conversion," but as one of the Indians once observed, "the wicked men swear at the missionaries because our women refuse to run wild like the deer in the forest." Why did not Sir F. B. Head inform Lord Glenelg, in order to "the subject of the Indians in Upper Canada" being "fairly considered," that many of the *adults* are of mixed blood, and that consequently, "in spite of the pure, honest, and unremitting zeal of our missionaries," *this circumstance*, without any "accursed process, has blanched their babies' faces." Had he really made himself "acquainted with the Indian character," he would know too that "babies' faces" being "blanched" is no just criterion on which to ground the serious charge of adultery as a characteristic of the effects of civilization. An intimation, at least, might have been given that all are not implicated in this crime; but the unlimited phrase, "*while as regards their women*," leads to the conclusion that adultery is the universal mark of degradation which accompanies the "accursed process of civilization." "It is impossible for any *accurate observer* to refrain from remarking" that "babies' faces" are in *all cases*, even where the character is above suspicion and the blood pure, many shades lighter than their parents; and that several months expire, unless they are much exposed by travelling, before they assume the distinctive hue of their race. This is known to all who are conversant with the Indians; and could Sir F. B. Head, or any other such "accurate observer," meet those "blanched babies" in a year or two hence, the ruddy countenance, the lank black hair, the high cheek-bone, and the dark piercing