

their own property by the law of the land.

The smoky wigwam, engendering ophthalmia, is being replaced by wooden cottages with windows, chimneys and the usual articles of furniture. Money is being spent, not so much upon gewgaws and trinkets or whatever appeals to the childish fancy, as for useful articles of food, clothing, and household supplies. The women are getting interested in domestic work—sewing, knitting, and the like—and are learning to keep their surroundings clean and tidy. Burial in the earth is superseding every other mode of disposing of the dead. The mysterious ceremonies of the “medicine-man” are being less and less invoked, as the Indians find the benefit of skilled medical advice supplied upon the reserves by the Government. As a consequence, the claims of this same “medicine-man” to magical power over the spirit-world are also being discredited, and the red man is with expectation awaiting the messengers of the churches.

These Indians have many of the characteristics of children, with the strong, uncurbed passions of men. They need the restraining power of the law, but withal, they need to be tutored and dealt with as children of nature, who have now become children of the nation. To become citizens and civilized Christian men they

must have training of hand and head and heart. This is a task of slow development, demanding sympathy, patience, co-operation on our part with all helpful agencies. It took centuries to accomplish the evolution of the man of to-day out of our ancestors coming from the morasses of Germany and the moors of Britain. As regards the red men, therefore, let us be patient with their uncleanly habits, their untutored reason, their immature conscience. They have to be led out of what they are into what they are to be. The good that is in them is to be discovered and fostered; the evil eradicated by the supplanting growth of something better.

Tools and schools is one combination which they need, but more than this they need the combination which the missionary, Sergeant, long ago commended and recommended: “The plough and the Bible go together in civilizing Indians.” So, doubtless, the best motto for workers in this field is: *Tools, Schools and Scriptures*. Sir Bartle Frere condenses everything in this: “Wherever the Bible has gone, it has promoted the dignity of labour, the sanctity of marriage, and the brotherhood of man.” But we should send the Gospel to the Indian with all the commendation that comes from its surroundings and accompaniments of Christian culture and civilization.

---

STAR DISTANCES.—Little has been done by astronomers to determine star distances. There are not four stars in the whole heavens whose distances have been satisfactorily determined; and there are not twelve which, under the most rigid scrutiny, have given even the slightest signs of having a measurable distance. All the host of heaven, save these few, all the thousands of stars seen on the darkest and clearest nights, all the millions revealed by the telescope, and all the millions on millions of them which no telescope yet made by man can reveal, lie at immeasurable distances. And yet the measuring line which has been used is of

inconceivable length. A single line of it brings us to the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, more than 200,000 times further away than the sun; another length added brings us to two other stars, one lying in the Swan, and another in the Great Bear; and astronomers know pretty certainly that from three to ten or twelve lengths of this enormous line would give a distance within which lie all the twelve nearest stars. But they have no means of pushing their measuring rod further out into space. Not only can they do so now, but it is unlikely that any improvements in telescopic construction will enable them to do so at any time.—*Proctor*.