

them, but we should bear in mind, that the transition from a barbarous to a civilized state is necessarily slow. We are not aware that among the aboriginal inhabitants of any country, it has ever been otherwise. In treating with such, the strong prejudices and superstitions incident to ignorance, and the example and teaching of their forefathers have to be overcome, the hereditary disinclination to obtain their living by patient toil is also to be surmounted, as well as their reluctance to learn the English language. Never having enjoyed the advantages which education confers, it could not be expected they would immediately appreciate the benefit it would be to their children; consequently, efforts for the instruction of the young are thwarted by the indifference of the parents and their unwillingness to send them, or to keep them at school. Never having been restrained from the indulgence of their natural propensities themselves, they do not feel the necessity of restraining their children, and they consequently grow up, with little if any right parental control, and when obliged to provide for themselves, their exertions are not steady, but influenced by the necessities of the day, with very little concern for the future.

— Yet, notwithstanding these obstructions and counteracting causes, we see that within a period of two generations, through the adoption of the principles of Christianity by many—the influence of the schools so liberally established by the State of New York, the efforts of benevolent individuals and other causes, there has been a marked improvement in their social habits, and much progress is apparent both in the variety and amount of the comforts and conveniences of civilized life which many of them enjoy.