

people to suppose that their numbers are decreasing. Many of them still retain their roving habits; but a wonderful improvement in this respect has taken place within the last ten years. Like the Jews (and I strongly incline to the theory that they have Abraham to their father) they do not like to till the ground. They are not "born" farmers, but they are "born" mechanics. The skill displayed by both sexes in all kinds of manufactures to which they apply themselves, is amazing. The workmanship, the artistic skill, the taste, they exhibit, and especially when it is remembered how imperfectly they are furnished with tools, prove, beyond question, that they are endowed with remarkable intellectual powers, as well as skilful hands.

#### THEIR CONVERSION TO POPERY.

The first Europeans who settled the country of the Micmacs were from France; they named the country *L'Acadie* (Acadia), an Indian word denoting "Abundance." They were Roman Catholics, and were accompanied by priests of that faith. Some of these labored as Missionaries among the Indians—learned their language, reduced it to writing, using for this purpose, however, not *letters* but *characters*, after the manner of the Chinese. The characters used were partly such as were found in use among the Indians, and partly invented at the time. In this manner a prayer book was constructed for their use, which has been about the whole of their literature for two hundred years, until very recently, the book not having been printed, but copied out with the pen with immense labor, and committed to memory; the characters, each one of which denotes a word, serving little more than as aids to the memory. Since we have been printing for their use portions of the Scriptures in their own tongue, in the English character, as an offset, this prayer book has been printed at immense labor and cost, as several thousand dies had to be cut, and types formed, to represent all the words used. It is the work of a clever German priest, and is a marvel of literary skill and perseverance. But so far as *use* is concerned, to say nothing of its theological errors, it is one of the grossest literary blunders that was ever perpetrated. To represent correctly by characters the Micmac language, which, for variety of inflection and grammatical changes, very far surpasses the Greek, is simply an impossibility. The priests