

many ; and many have dilated upon it with different objects in view. For a length of time, instead of being bettered by their intercourse with Europeans, their circumstances were rendered worse. In consequence of the cupidity of man, many evils unquestionably ensued to the noble race who were found inhabiting this vast region. In reading this portion of history, a tear must drop on the page which records their wrongs and woes. Cruel exactions were imposed upon them, and they groaned under hardships of an appalling nature. Also, along with some degree of refinement of manners derived from European example, they imported a sad and awful degree of European vices and sins ; so that those heathens were rendered still more earthly and sensual than before.

But does this statement contain the whole of the answer to this question ? No : there are, on the other hand, real advantages which have resulted from this important event—advantages, too, which, when placed in contrast with evils, great and awful as they were, far outweigh them. By this event they have been made acquainted with the revelation from heaven addressed to them in common with their fellow men—the Gospel has been preached to these poor outcasts—the “common salvation” has been experienced and enjoyed by them—and civilization has followed evangelization ; and they have been exalted to the proper rank of *man*. Could all this have been anticipated by the savages who met Columbus when he landed on the shores of the new world ; instead of that wonder and astonishment which they manifested, they would have joined him in the attitude and expression of devotion to the Author of these blessings. The sequel will, perhaps, make this evident. It will, at least, tend to show, that deploring these evils which had been inflicted, Christians have endeavoured to compensate them as far as possible.

Great Britain, in the all wise providence of God, is put in possession of vast Colonial territories, in consequence