

faces with earth, look towards the rising sun, and, with an affected air, pray sometimes until the sun has risen.* But their gods are not able to change their hearts, or put right spirits within them. It is no uncommon thing to see them start, immediately after their morning devotion, on some mischievous and atrocious expedition, perhaps to murder some of a neighbouring tribe, or steal their substance. I will mention the following as an instance of their readily learning that which is sinful, and their proneness to do evil." And what does the reader suppose this Indian proneness to do evil amounted to?—"Many of them," adds their reformer; "are playing cards around me while I am writing; and uttering in broken English, the oaths which are so commonly uttered at the card table; both the card-playing and the profanity they have, doubtless, learned from the traders who pass much of their time in the village."†

* Many Indian customs are reviled by those who are ignorant of the meaning of them. The ceremony alluded to, as Mr. Hunter informed me, must have occurred in the course of some of their solemnities while mourning for their dead. Captain Franklin, in noticing a party of Northern Indians who were lamenting the loss of some of their relations who had been drowned, says: "They bewailed the melancholy accident every morning and evening, by repeating the names of the persons in a loud singing tone, which was frequently interrupted by bursts of tears."—*Captain Franklin's Narrative*, &c. ch. 3. p. 472.

† See Appendix, (E e) to Dr. Morse's Indian Report.