

rence from this discovery is interesting and important. We learn that the Americans are susceptible of improvement.

If civilization be a blessing; if man by relinquishing the condition of the savage or barbarian, assumes a more independent station in the range of human affairs; if in proportion to his advancement to improvement (I speak not of a vicious refinement), he is even fitting himself for the enjoyment of higher comforts, of unmeasured happiness elsewhere; it is surely worthy the attention of the good and wise to endeavour to extend the empire of civility and knowledge among the numerous nations who are scattered over the countries of America. Individuals have often laboured in this business: but it seems to be of sufficient importance to engage the attention of whole nations; and it is peculiarly worthy of the notice of the United-States, who have exhibited the august spectacle of a people relinquishing their dependence, and moving with an unparalleled rapidity to the attainment of knowledge, and of arts.

I know not, Sir, whether ever the government of our country will think the civilization of the Indians a matter of as much importance as I do: but I must confess, that I derive a portion of my happiness from supposing that they will. Should I be disappointed, I shall have no occasion to look