

stant and friendly communications with them. Much credit is also due to Mr. John Hill, Junr., a Mohawk Catechist, who has devoted much time and attention in assisting to prepare the present work for publication, and has translated the Collects and some of the offices of the Church which were never before printed in Mohawk.

Objections have been made to any attempt to translate a work like the Book of Common Prayer into a language so rude and uncultivated as the Indian, into which it is deemed impracticable to effect any satisfactory version. To remove from the Indians any motive to learn the English language, or to furnish them with any excuse for remaining content with their own, has been held by some inexpedient.

But the Company hopes to find from this partial interchange of languages a tendency to a different result; that a mutual desire and a mutual facility may be promoted for the acquisition of each, and that it may contribute to the accommodation, both of future teachers and learners. In the mean time, without regard to the merits or demerits of the Indian language, it seems an imperative duty to omit no opportunity of assisting those invited to join in acts of devotion, speedily and effectually to understand the language in which those acts are performed, and it is certainly desirable to remove any extraneous difficulty, that might, from the use of a strange idiom, arise in untutored minds to comprehending and satisfactorily adopting some parts of this much valued formulary. The Indian Catechumens in North America ought to be placed in this respect at least on an equal footing with their fellow christians on the eastern side of the Atlantic.

It only remains in consideration of the zeal, exertion and care exhibited on this occasion by Mr. Nelles and his worthy colleague Mr. Elliot, to express a cordial hope that in addition to the satisfaction arising from having so efficiently co-operated in what must be regarded as a good work, they may be further rewarded by immediately receiving the grateful acknowledgment and by long witnessing the progressive improvement of their flocks.

(e) In a letter dated 1683, to Mr. Boyle, he says, "our slow progress needeth an apology, we have last year been much hindered by sickness,—I desire to see it done before I die, and I am so deep in years that I cannot expect to live long—besides we have but one man the Indian printer who is able to compose the sheet and correct the press with understanding."