

“ towards civilization. It is certainly a striking  
“ and mysterious fact, that a race of men should  
“ thus have continued for ages stationary in a  
“ state of the rudest barbarism. *That tendency to*  
“ *improvement*, a principle that has been thought  
“ more than perhaps any other to distinguish man  
“ from the lower animals, *would seem to be to-*  
“ *tally wanting in them.* Generation after ge-  
“ neration passes away, and no trace of advance-  
“ ment distinguishes the last from the first. The  
“ mighty wilderness they inhabit may be traversed  
“ from end to end, and hardly a vestige be dis-  
“ covered that marks the hand of man. It might  
“ naturally have been expected, that, in the course  
“ of ages, some superior genius would have arisen  
“ among them, to inspire his countrymen with a  
“ desire to cultivate the arts of peace, and establish  
“ some durable civil institution ; or that, at least,  
“ during the long period since the Europeans have  
“ been settled amongst them, and taught them,  
“ by such striking examples, the benefits of in-  
“ dustry and social order, they would have been  
“ tempted to endeavour to participate in blessings  
“ thus providentially brought within their reach.  
“ But all has been unavailing : and it now seems  
“ certain that the North American Indians, like  
“ the bears and wolves, are destined to fly at the