

ment made, the public will be able to determine whether we ought to give up in despair our efforts to make the aborigines an agricultural people.

There have been cleared, and were under fence last season, not less than one hundred and forty acres of land which was heavily wooded. The rails were split, drawn, and laid up into fence by the Indians, with very little, if any, assistance or instruction from white men. And although the season was unfavourable to their corn and potatoe crops, and the late disturbances prevented them from providing as they otherwise might have done, yet there are some who have Indian corn and potatoes on hand to supply their families; and they consequently consider themselves better off than they would have been in their former "simple-minded" state, when living on the "berries on which those Indians feed," who "have been in the habit of living in their canoes" among the "granite islands" of Lake Huron, or "further to the North and West." They are fully persuaded that their present location is preferable, inasmuch as it affords fishing, hunting, bird-shooting, and fruit, and also excellent corn, potatoes, oats, and vegetables in abundance. The Indians own several black cattle and twelve horses. One of them killed five good hogs last autumn, and some others one or more each. Several barrels of fish, which were packed last autumn, have been sold to the merchants and others during the winter. Some who, when they became Christians were from one to two hundred dollars in debt, now "owe no man any thing;" while their clean and decent appearance, and their sober conduct, declare most emphatically that our friendship and philanthropy have not altogether failed.

Whether "congregating the Indians in villages of substantial log-houses" may be considered a "lovely or beautiful theory," or whether what Sir F. B. Head declares to be an "undeniable fact," to which he so "*unhesitatingly*" adds his "humble testimony, that as soon as the hunting season commences the men perish, or rather rot in numbers by consumption," and that Christianity "has more than decimated its followers!" may be determined by a perusal of the following statement of the number of deaths which took place respectively during the four years preceding, and about the same period since, the introduction of Christianity among this tribe.

Number of Deaths during four years previous to embracing Christianity.

| | |
|--|----|
| Natural deaths, hastened in most cases by drunkenness and other vices . . . | 12 |
| Died drunk . . . | 9 |
| Killed by being stabbed, bruised, or otherwise injured by their associates, and in several instances by their own relations, in drunken quarrels . . . | 14 |
| Burned to death by falling in the fire when drunk . . . | 2 |
| Drowned when drunk . . . | 2 |
| Poisoned by the Conjurers or Meedai, (persons frequently employed by the Pagans to avenge real or supposed injuries) . . . | 4 |
| Insane through continued drunkenness, and eaten by wolves . . . | 1 |
| Killed by accident when drunk . . . | 1 |
| Killed by accident when sober . . . | 1 |
| Died in childhood . . . | 1 |
| Total . . . | 47 |

Number of Deaths since embracing Christianity.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Natural deaths . . . | 3 |
| Total . . . | 3 |

In preparing this statement, I have been careful to obtain the name of every individual; and should the almost incredible contrast lead any one