

MISSIONS TO THE INDIAN TRIBES.

The fact is as striking, as it is humiliating and lamentable, that the contact of the North American Indian with European and American intelligence, has proved, not the means of the Indian's improvement and elevation, but a new and fruitful source of his poverty, degradation, and misery. The disease of European vices has been widely and fatally propagated, unaccompanied by the antidote of European virtue, benevolence, and piety. The White-man's commerce and vices have impoverished and ruined the Indian; whilst the White-man's religion was withheld from him. Few Indian Tribes of North America have experienced to a greater extent the effects of this "accursed process" than those of Upper Canada. Their thousands of population have dwindled to hundreds; their vast territories of land have been reduced to isolated plots; to their vices of nature have been added those of art; so that they have long since become a proverb, as well as spectacle, of moral debasement and social wretchedness. The depth of their degradation was considered by many to be below the reach of Christianity itself; and they were regarded as doomed to terminate their rayless life by a midnight tomb.

It was thus "against hope believing in hope," that the successful operations of this Society were commenced, nearly twenty years ago, amongst the Indian Tribes of this Province. Their success has not only falsified the predictions of their early opposers and sceptical friends, but has added another practical and irresistible testimony to the truth of the long-disputed doctrine, that Christianity is the proper, and only efficient, instrument of civilization; that as there is no example of any nation having acquired the knowledge of one true and living God without a revelation from heaven; so, wherever the Gospel is truly preached and received, it continues to be the "power of God unto salvation," and an essential and suitable preliminary

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