

country, deserve not the opprobrium which is said to have been cast upon them, but, that they merit the approbation, and the support of the community. The present system of combining the two objects of civilizing and christianizing the Indian Tribes, is already "in the full tide of successful experiment;" and, I cannot but deeply regret, that a measure should find its advocates in Congress, which appears to be calculated to give a powerful check, if not to erect an insurmountable barrier, to both.

Upon this country, Sir, rests a responsibility, in relation to the Indian Tribes, of deep and tremendous import. "Sovereigns from time immemorial of the interminable forests, which overshadow this vast Continent, this injured race have gradually been driven, by the white usurpers of their soil, within the limits of their present precarious possessions. One after another of their favourite rivers has been reluctantly abandoned, until the range of the hunter is bounded by lines prescribed by his invader, and the independence of the warrior is no more. Of the innumerable Tribes, which, a few centuries since, roamed, fearless and independent, in their native forests, how many have been swept into oblivion, and are with the generations before the flood! Of others, not a trace remains but in tradition, or in the person of some solitary wanderer, the last of his Tribe, who hovers like a ghost among the sepulchres of his fathers—a spark still faintly glimmering in the ashes of an extinguished race." Alas! Sir, shall the sword of avarice, or the strong arm of civilized power, still pursue this unhappy people? Shall the unceasing and relentless force of emigration drive them from forest to forest, until the last remnant, struggling for existence,