

And, though habitually indolent, in many respects they do not lack in perseverance, especially in the pursuit of game. But their peculiarity in this often amounts to a misfortune; for they glory in the chase more than in the game when secured.

Another peculiarity in the Indian character is, that they seem to cherish no desire to perpetuate their remembrance to future generations. They raise no monuments, they leave no such memorials of their skill in hunting, or their fame as warriors, as are found in Britain; such as have been built by chieftains of renown, and have long withstood the tooth of time, and bid defiance to the storms that for centuries have howled around them.

The Indian's house is a frail fabric, composed of rushes, or the bark of trees; and one generation after another passes away without leaving any vestige of their existence behind, except in some cases where the flint head of the arrow, or a rude pipe, may be found entombed with his bones. They have no written language, no record of their government; and, what is still more remarkable, they seem to have no desire to have it otherwise. But, while this is the case, there evidently is an increasing anxiety manifested by them for a more permanent ground of hope for eternity than any form of paganism can afford. This is the first step towards civilization. Pagans must first be Christianized and baptized in the waters of life; then they at once become tame and civilized, and may be easily taught habits of industry and frugality.