

lihood, and upon a soil highly luxuriant capable with cultivation of producing every necessary of life as well as its comforts in great abundance, being pinched with extreme poverty, and both themselves and children not half clad, & perhaps such as they have on is all in rags, this I say appears strange in the extreme; but such is the fact with all uncivilised Indians. The sole cause of all this poverty & suffering is their vices and indolence. And when they have been in a measure brought under the influence of the gospel the latter seems to adhere to them like the leprosy.

The importance of industry is constantly kept before the mind both as to the virtue & necessity of it, but when this chord is touched it is so slack it seems impossible to produce a vibration—The same indolent disposition which rules in a great majority of cases with regard to manual, rules with regard to mental labor. And hence the instruction of their children is sadly neglected. And it seems impossible to make them feel the importance of education. It is not difficult to get them to acknowledge it but the energy necessary to obtain it is wanting. There is a want of providence and common sense in the management of their civil & domestic affairs which is the cause of most of their troubles & distresses. The trials which the Revd David Brainerd experienced amongst the Indians one hundred years ago are trials of the Missionary at the present day. In his Memoirs<sup>1</sup> I can testify after fourteen years of experience is to be found a most just delineation of the Indian character. At one time he says "while they retain their Pagan tempers they discover little gratitude amid all the kindnesses which they receive," (p. 259) I should rejoice if this remark was applicable to those only who are in "Pagan" darkness, it is I regret to say of too general application even after the gospel has shone upon them for a century and they have professed it. I would mention here not for the sake of bringing myself into notice but for the sake of delineating what I conceive to be the native character; that two of the bitterest enemies I have had

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<sup>1</sup>See *ante*, p. 69, *note*.—Ed.