

I have slept as long as David Brainerd has beneath the clods of the valley — And it may be of some use to him to know what in my days were the trials of the Missionary to the Aborigines.

I hope none will be discouraged by such unpleasant details from efforts to save lost men. The faith of the friends of Missions needs trying as well as the faith of the Missionary.

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With regard to the difficulties of this tribe it is probable that some arrangement will be made this Summer with the Indian Party. It has sent a delegation to Washington to see if Congress will afford them aid or purchase their proportion of the Reservation and provide them with the means to remove to the State of Missouri. Most ardently it is to be desired that something may be fixed upon soon for whilst in this state of suspense everything so far as doing good is concerned is stationary.

Customs.

This people still remember some of the traditions handed down from their fathers although most of them have been forgotten.

Marriage.

When a young man wanted to take a wife, his parents, usually his mother, would go round to all of his friends, and each in favor of the match would make some present. When this was done the whole was collected & carried to the intended bride; if she accepted of the presents the match was considered as made, but if not that was the end of it. But if the presents were accepted which was usually the case, her friends took, and disposed of them and with the avails made a wedding feast, then all who had made any present was considered as invited guests without further ceremony. These were seasons of great mirth and festivity and often lasted many days. It was not until after I came that the custom was totally abandoned of parents