

than removing or trying to keep away from the white people or from adopting their laws and customs. No one acquainted with their circumstances can blame them for wishing to keep distinct from that class of white people and mixture of African blood which usually follow them, for it is a class which but deteriorates the race and is rather a nuisance than otherwise. Those who usually intermarry with them are the lowest and most debased and hardened of the white people, who cannot endure the restraints of good society and so go off and connect themselves with the Natives. The Indians themselves understand this and one very intelligent Stockbridge remarked to me, "That a white man who would marry an Indian Squaw must be a mean fellow." In nine cases out of ten where there is an intermarriage this is literally the case — Hence arises one of the greatest obstacles to be surmounted in elevating and christianising the Natives. Such, base as they are, have great influence; and such is human nature that the man who will drink and smoke Tobacco with them finds an easy access to the great mass and often has a surprising degree of influence. The Stockbridges have from time to time enacted severe laws against intermarriages with the whites and Mulattoes, but to no purpose, for many they will in despite of law or remonstrance. A circumstance occurred only a few days since which develops the character of the whites &c. who usually connect themselves with the Indians. Four (or) 5 of them who all had Indian women for wives went to a political caucus in a neighboring Town, and on their return became partially intoxicated, got into a quarrel fell upon, beat and knocked out all of the front teeth of the only sober one there was in the company. Such degrading scenes do but make even the natives who have any self respect despise a white man. It is a great stumbling block to the Indians, and a thing which is frequently mentioned by them, "Why say they is it, if the Bible and the Christian religion is true, that so many of the white people who can read and understand the Bible &c. are so bad, even worse than Indians?" Surrounded