

on its way to the West." How invaluable to such parents would be a saving knowledge of that gospel which brings life & immortality to light, so that in the arms of faith they might commend in the hour of death, the spirits of their children to that Savior who says "Suffer little children to come unto me." &c.

Says a Mr. Oakes an intelligent Indian Trader, "The account which the Apostle gave of the heathen in his day is applicable to the uncivilised Indians of the present day, and I have learnt this from personal observation." Not unfrequently aged and infirm parents are left by their children to perish on some desolate Island. "I was crossing," says a Mr. Ashmun (another Indian Trader) Leach Lake (a large Lake situated N. W. of L. Superior) in the month of Dec. upon the ice, having a white man & Indian for a guide. It was exceeding cold and I had to make every exertion to keep from freesing; about noon I arrived at an Island in the middle of the Lake and built up a fire & was obliged to remain some time on account of the cold. I had been travelling a number of days & my provisions were entirely exhausted, but shook out a few crumbs from out sacks and ate them which was all we could get to eat & determined if possible to reach a house that night on the opposite side of the Lake about 15 miles distant. Just as I was leaving the Island my attention was attracted by a hacking, & looking thro' the bushes saw an old blind man upon his knees at work with a hatchet almost worn up to the eye; he would strike a few strokes & then stop & feel; in this way he had succeeded during the day in felling a very small tree & cutting off one stick & had commenced upon the second. I approached & spoke to him; he immediately drops his hatchet, raises both hands and exclaims "O che-moke-a-mon, che-moke-a-mon" (the word for an American) who *has come* to give us life a little longer? Do go into my lodge & see my poor, old woman for she is almost dead." "I went in" says he, "& saw lying upon the ground an old, blind woman also. Near her was a little handful of coals and a pile of acorn-shells wh[ich] she