AN ABRIDGMENT OF Mr. HOPKINS's Historical Memoirs, RELATING TO THE Housatunnuk, or Stockbridge Indians: OR, A brief Account of the Methods used, and Pains taken, for civilizing and propagating the GOSPEL among that Heathenish Tribe, and the Success thereof, under the Ministry of the late Rev. Mr. JOHN SERGEANT.

PHILADELPHIA:
Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN, and D. HALL, M,DCC,LVII.
B.K.
$76.322
Apr. 2, 1912
INTRODUCTION.

The favourable Reception Mr. Hopkins's Address met with, has encouraged the Publication of this Abridgment of his Historical Memoirs relating to the Housatunnek Indians, to which that Address was annexed. It may be some Satisfaction to the Public, to be informed of the Pains taken, and the Means used, to instruct the Indians, and it is to be hoped that the Success which attended them, will encourage farther Attempts of the same Sort.

From what follows, it appears that the Indians are not that unteachable, ungrateful People they are often represented. Upon mature Consideration, every judicious Person must acknowledge, that what was brought to pass by Mr. Sergeant's Ministry, was by no Means small and inconsiderable. And, considering the Disposition the neighbouring Tribes shewed to receive Instruction, and the Spirit of Enquiry raised among them, there is Reason to think much more might have been done in the same Time, bad proper Measures been pursued.

The Importance of the Indians is so well known, and the Objections against taking the proper Steps to instruct and civilize them, are so fully answered in Mr. Hopkins's Address, that it would be unnecessary to add any Thing thereto.
Whether those 400 Delawares, of whom Mr. Sergeant takes Notice, and of whom be conceived so favourable an Opinion, might not be collected, provided with Lands, and settled in Townships on our Frontiers (in the same Manner as those at Stockbridge are) and in that Case be as great a Security to our Province as the Stockbridge Indians have been to that Part of New-England; and whether we might not, by establishing a Trade with them, in a just and equitable Manner, draw other Tribes into our Alliance, and thereby extend our Trade, secure our Frontiers, and open a Way for bringing in the Everlasting Gospel of Christ to the Heathen Nation; we submit to the serious Consideration of the Public, and pass on to the Abridgment.
AN ABRIDGMENT, &c.

The River Indians are pretty numerous, and live chiefly within the Limits of New-York Government; a few Families of them live on Housatunnuk River, in the Southwest Corner of the Massachusetts Province, bordering on the Government of New-York West, and on Connecticut Colony South.

In 1720, the General Assembly of Massachusetts having granted two Townships on Housatunnuk River to some People, who were desirous to settle there; the Indians sold them the Land, but reserved for themselves two small Tracts, about eight or ten Miles distant one from the other. One of the Places they named Wnabktukook, the other Skatekook. On each of these lived four or five Families.

The principal Person among these was named Kunkaport, a Man strictly temperate, very just and upright in his Dealings, and industrious in his Business. Upon becoming acquainted with the English, he was somewhat inclined to embrace the Christian Religion, but was discouraged; partly by Fear, left, if he became a Christian, his own People would discard him; and partly by the ill Conversation of Christians; it being, in his Opinion, as bad, if not worse than that of the Indians.
The News of this having reached the Ears of some reverend Gentlemen of the neighbouring Townships, affected them a good deal, and determined them to use their Endeavours that Kunkapot, and the other Indians there, should be instructed in the Doctrines of Christianity. And being informed that for such Purposes some Money was deposited in the Hands of Commissioners for Indian Affairs at Boston, they, in the Beginning of the Year 1734, applied to them to send a Missionary among these Indians. The Commissioners in Answer, desired them first to confer with the Indians, to know whether they would receive a Missionary to instruct them. This was accordingly done, and the Consent of the Indians obtained; whereupon the Commissioners desired the Reverend Messeurs Williams and Bull to look out a suitable Person to go and reside among the Indians at Houseatunnuk, as their Minister, to instruct them and their Children in Religion, and in Reading, and to preach the Gospel to them on the Sabbaths; and for the Encouragement of such suitable Person, they voted the Salary of £100 per Annum.

In Consequence of this Order, these Gentlemen, without Delay, applied to one Mr. Sergeant, a Tutor in Yale College, who having obtained the Consent and Approval of the Rector and Trustees of the College, cheerfully engaged in the Undertaking, and on the 13th of October, 1734, entered upon his Mission. Mr. Sergeant had for his Interpreter an Indian named Ebenezer. Upon conversing with the Indians, he found them possessed of the Belief of One Supreme Being, the Maker and Governor of all Things;

† These Commissioners, at the Head of which was his Excellency Governor Belcher, were appointed by an honourable Corporation in England, formed for propagating the Gospel among the Indians.
Things; that they acknowledged the Difference between moral Good and Evil, and believed that GOD regards the Actions of Mankind, in order to reward or punish them in some future State of Existence.

In these Matters he confirmed their Belief; and having in some previous Discourses endeavoured to convince them of the Necessity of a supernatural Revelation, and that this is contained in the Holy Scriptures, he next gave them a brief Account of the Original of Things; the State of Mankind at first; the Fall and unhappy Consequences of it; the most remarkable Dispensations of divine Providence recorded in the Old Testament; GOD's chusing a peculiar People to himself; his most remarkable Dealings with them; a short History of our Saviour's Birth, Life, Actions, and Death; an Account of his Doctrines and Precepts; and in every Discourse he made such practical Reflections as he thought convenient.

At first his Audience was but small, not exceeding twenty grown Persons, but it soon encreased; and all seemed very attentive to what he said.

The Indians, as we observed before, lived at two Places, about eight or ten Miles asunder: But upon Mr. Sergeant's Arrival, that they might attend his preaching on the Sabbath, and have their Children taught on the Week Days, they agreed to live together during the Winter, at a Place about Half-way between where each Party lived. In the Spring each were to return to their own Place, for the Sake of Planting, &c.

Accordingly they set to Work, and built a public House at the Place agreed upon, erected Wigwams around it, and in the Beginning of November removed thither with their Families. On the Fifth Mr. Sergeant opened his School in the public House, and
and in less than two Weeks the Number of his Scholars amounted to 24 or 25. These he instructed on the Week Days, and preached on the Sabbath.

On the 25th, he took a Journey to Albany, at the Request of some reverend Gentlemen, to enquire how the Mohawks and other Indians, in Friendship with the English, were affected towards the Christian Religion. He applied for Information to Mr. Livingston, and to Mr. Barclay, an ingenious and religious young Gentleman, who had been a Year and a Half among the Mohawks, and was learning their Language, to qualify him to be a Missionary among them, if the Society for propagating the Gospel in foreign Parts would support him. Both these Gentlemen gave a very favourable Account of the Indians, and concurred in thinking, that the Protestant Religion might be introduced among them, if proper Means were used.

As at Mr. Sergeant's quitting the College, it had been agreed, that he should, after a few Months, return for Half a Year, to finish the Class he had under his Care; and as the Time now drew nigh, Mr. Timothy Woodbridge was prevailed upon to go up and take Care of the Indian School during Mr. Sergeant's Absence.

Hitherto every Thing had succeed beyond Expectation; but, in the Beginning of December, some Traders came down from Hudson's River, brought with them a large Quantity of Rum, and sold it to the Indians, with which they got drunk, and continued so for several Days. The greatest Difficulties that Mr. Sergeant had to struggle with, arose from the wicked Practices of professed Christians, and the vile Insinuations of the still more abandoned Traders.

"I found nothing (says he in a Letter to the Commissioners) on the Part of the Indians, but what was encouraging, except their Inclination to strong Drink."
"Drink. But from other People there are many Discouragements. They are a loose People the Indians live among, and there are some so pro-digiously wicked, as to endeavour all they can to discourage them; especially the Dutch Traders, whose Gain is all their Godliness; and this poor People's Ignorance and Vice is their Gain: They Trade with them very much for Rum, which is the Destruction of every Thing that is good among them. To discourage them, they tell them our Religion is not a good one; and that we design only to make Slaves of them. They take Advantage from the Law of your Province against selling strong Liquor to them, to prejudice them against the English. The Traders themselves evade the Force of the Law, by leaving their Rum just without the Borders of the Province, from whence the Indians fetch it themselves." Thus they endeavoured to keep the Indians in Ignorance, and to prevent their receiving the Knowledge of the Gospel, that they might still have an Opportunity to cheat and impose upon them.

On the 9th of December, Mr. Sergeant set out to return to New-Haven, and, having obtained the Consent of the Parents, took with him two little Boys. One was Captain Kunkapes's only Son, named Nungawat, about nine Years old; the other Lieutenant Umpackenee's eldest Son, Elowaukaum, about eight Years old. These two Men were the principal Indians at Housatunnuk, and had lately received from the Governor, the former a Captain's Commission, and the latter a Lieutenant's.

Soon after Mr. Sergeant left them, there was a general Meeting of the River Indian: at Housatunnuk, to consult whether the Indians there should continue to receive Instruction, or not.
It is the Custom of the Indians not to proceed to any Affair of Importance, till they have the Consent of the several Tribes belonging to their Nation. Now the Indians at Housatunnuk having proceeded so far without the general Consent of their Brethren, were, before the Meeting, under very great Terror: For they heard, that the Indians at Hudson's River highly resented their receiving a Minister and School-Master, without the Approbation of their Brethren. There was also a Report, that a Design was on Foot to poison the Captain and Lieutenant on that Account, as also for receiving Commissions from his Excellency Governor Belcher. Whether there was any just Ground for these Reports, or whether they were invented by the Traders to discourage the Indians at Housatunnuk, is not certainly known. The Indians however were so affected with these Stories, that they sent to some neighbouring Ministers, requesting them to attend at their general Meeting. These accordingly attended, and by frequent Conferences with the Indians, so far removed their Prejudices, obviated their Objections, and satisfied those that came from other Places, that they thanked them for the Pains they had taken, desired that Mr. Woodbridge (the School-Master) might continue at Housatunnuk, and that Mr. Sergeant would return to them. They said farther, they would acquaint their several Towns of what they had heard, and gave Room to hope, that they would, as a Nation, submit to Instruction.

1735. In the Beginning of May, several of the Indians went to New-Haven, and waited on Mr. Sergeant to Housatunnuk, where he stayed with them sixteen Days. During this short Stay (as the Indians had left the School-House, and lived some at Wnabktucok, and some at Skatekook, where they planted their Beans and Corn) both he and Mr. Woodbridge taught
taught School, one at one Place, and the other at the other, each taking his Turn a Week at a Place. The Indians shewed great Fondness for him, and seemed now heartily disposed to receive Instruction, and to embrace Christianity. Of this Mr. Sergeant, upon his Return to the College, in a Letter informed the Reverend Doctor Colman, one of the Commissioners at Boston, acquainting him also of his own Resolution to devote his Life to the Service of these Indians, and desiring that Mr. Woodbridge might be continued, as he thought there would be Work enough for two.

As Doctor Colman had the Affair very much at Heart, he wrote to Mr. Sergeant to encourage him in his laudable Undertaking, and at the same time wrote to several of his Friends and Correspondents in England, particularly to the Honourable Samuel Holden, Esq; and Mr. Isaac Hollis, of London, to request their Assistance in carrying on this noble Design.

Mr. Hollis, about three Years before, had in a Letter desired Doctor Colman to receive from his Hand a Security of Twenty Pounds Sterling per Annum for ever, for a Missionary to the Indians on the Borders of New-England; but, as there had been three Missionaries already employed at the Forts on the Frontiers, who were not like to be of any Service to the Indians, Doctor Colman refuted his Offer, giving him his Reasons. However, as there was now a Prospect of much Good to be done at Houfatunnuk, the Doctor pressed him to fix his noble Charity on the Mission thither.

On the First of July, Mr. Sergeant, having dismissed his Class at the College, left New-Haven, intending to spend the rest of his Life with the Indians at Houfatunnuk, where he arrived the Fifth, and was kindly received.

Before Mr. Sergeant’s Arrival, the Parting of Husband and Wife was very common among the Indians.
Indians. Indeed it rarely happened that a married Couple lived together till they were old. And as they used little Ceremony in the Business of Marriage, so they made a less Thing of Parting. But this, as well as other bad Customs, they now began to reform. Such Respect did they pay to him, that they consulted him on all Occasions, and submitted to his Advice. Their Pawwawing they wholly laid aside, and would not indulge themselves in a Dance, till they knew his Opinion, and whether he approved it or not. They began now to be sensible of the Evil of Drunkenness, and therefore formed Resolutions, and took great Pains to cure this evil Habit, and to guard against Excess.

In the Fall the Indians moved again with their Families to the School House, and now seemed more engaged in Religion than ever before. Every Lord's Day Evening, Mr. Sergeant conversed with them several Hours, and endeavoured to give them a short View of the whole Scheme of Christianity.

Several strange Indians, who came on a Visit to Houfatanuk, received such Impressions in Favour of the Christian Religion, by hearing and conversing with Mr. Sergeant, and observed such a Reformation of Manners among the Indians there, that they were greatly pleased; and some said, they would come and live there. Two Families actually stayed; and one left two of his Sons there in the School. The Number of Scholars in January was upwards of Forty, besides some elderly Persons, who made some Attempts to learn to read.

Thus by the Blessing of GOD, and the faithful Labours of his pious Servant, those Indians, who, but a little more than a Year before, were in the Depth of Heathenish Ignorance and Darkness, were brought to such a Knowledge of the Principles of Christianity, that many of them were become fit Subjects
Subjects of Baptism, and accordingly they, with their Children, to the Number of Forty, were baptized before the End of November.

1736. As the Indians living at two Places remote from each other, put them to the Trouble of removing from their proper Habitations in the Winter Season, and laid them under Disadvantages in attending public Worship and the School in Summer; there was from the Beginning a Design to accommodate them with Land, that they might all settle at one Place, and that there might be Accommodations also for others of the Tribe, who might be disposed to come and settle with them. This Matter the Governor laid before the General Assembly; and the Assembly appointed Colonel Stoddard, Major Pumroy, and Mr. Ingersole, to weigh and consider all Things and Circumstances, so as to accommodate the Indians at Houfatunnuk with Land in the best Manner.

When the Indians were informed of the Steps that were taken by the English, and of the Committee chosen for the above mentioned End, they had a great Jealousy on their Minds that the English had some ill Design upon them. For besides that it is the Manner of the Nation to be slow in their Debates, cautious in their Determinations, and jealous of their Interest; the Enemies of the Gospel had been very industrious to throw Stumbling-blocks in their Way, and to prevent their accepting the Proposal of settling together. They told the Indians, that the Design of the English in this Affair, was only to get the greater Advantage of them, to bring them more into their Power, and then to make Slaves of them and their Children.

However, by the Pains Mr. Sergeant took to satisfy them of the kind and good Intentions of the English towards them, and by the Faithfulness both of
of the Committee and Government in that Affair, the Jealousy and Suspicions of the Indians were removed. The Committee having first conferred with the Indians, to know whether they were willing to settle together, and what Place would suit them, made a Report to the General Court (or Assembly) and informed them, that the Indians had fixed on Wnabktukook for the Place of their Settlement, and that they were willing to part with their reserved Land below at Skatekook, for an Equivalent above at the other Place.

Upon this Report of the Committee, the General Court granted the Indians a Township six Miles Square, comprising in it Wnabktukook, and appointed the same Committee to lay out the Land; to treat with those who were Proprietors of Land within the Township, and to give them an Equivalent in other Places; to Proportion the Meadow Lands to the Indians, and to do all that was needful, that the Indians might be put into the quiet Possession of it. All which was accordingly done, and the Indians, by the Beginning of May, 1736, were settled very much to their Satisfaction in their New Township, which now goes by the Name of Stockbridge. Two new Families were added to their Number, and this Year they planted three Times as much as ever they had done before in one Year.

By the Grant of the General Court, and with the Consent of the Indians, Mr. Sergeant, their Minister, and Mr. Woodbridge, their Schoolmaster, were made Proprietors, each of a Sixtieth Part of the Township; and four English Families besides were to be accommodated with such a Part as the Committee should see fit. These Families were admitted upon Mr. Sergeant's Desire. The Ends he had in View were, not only that he and Mr. Woodbridge might have the Comfort of their Neighbourhood
hood and Society, but especially, that they might help to civilize and anglicize the Indians, and by Example lead them to Industry and Economy.

Every Year, at the latter End of February, the Indians of Housatunuck go with their Families into the Woods to make Sugar of the Sap of Maple Trees, and continue at this Business about six Weeks. This Year they went in two Companies, one Half with the Captain, and the other with the Lieutenant. And as Mr. Sergeant was loath they should be so long without Instruction, he concluded to go himself with one of the Companies, and Mr. Woodbridge with the other, and live with them during that Season. During these six Weeks Mr. Sergeant spent his Time very agreeably. In the Day Time he taught the Children to read, and in the Evening conversed with the Indians, and taught them to sing, in which they took great Delight. He prayed with them Evening and Morning in their own Language. On the Sabbath he preached by an Interpreter, but prayed in the Indian Language, having before, by the Assistance of Interpreters, composed Prayers for such Occasions. The Snow was deep, and the Weather cold. He had a Deer Skin, with a Blanket spread on it, for his Bed, and two or three Blankets over him for his Covering. His Diet was low, and his Drink Water; yet he slept well, had a good Appetite, eat heartily, and was in very good Health all the Time he was out, and learned more of their Manners and Language than ever he had before.

There now appeared a remarkable Reformation in the Manners of the Indians; their Hearts seemed really engaged; Vice, especially Drunkenness, the Vice they were all addicted to, began to be a great Disgrace among them; and Religion was the frequent Subject of their Conversations. In June, when
when the Captain and Lieutenant went to Hudson's River (being called thither to deliberate upon a Murder committed by one of the Tribe) they had an Opportunity to see and converse with many of the principal Indians of their Nation, and they told Mr. Sergeant, when they returned, that all they had talked with, had favourable Thoughts of the Christian Religion, owned that they themselves were in a wrong Way, and several said they would come with their Families, and be instructed in Christianity.

We before mentioned Doctor Colman's writing to the Honourable Samuel Holden, Esq; and Mr. Isaac Hollis, of London. In Consequence of his Letter, Mr. Hollis undertook to diet, clothe, lodge, and instruct twelve Indian Boys, at his own Cost; from Year to Year. And the Honourable Samuel Holden remitted to Doctor Colman a very considerable Gift, directing One Hundred Pounds of it to be laid out for the Benefit of the Indians at Stockbridge, and desiring Doctor Colman to dispose of the Rest in such a Manner as might be most for the Honour of GOD, in promoting the Knowledge and Practice of Religion, or in the Relief of the necessitous Members of Jesus Christ.

Of these noble and generous Instances of Liberality Mr. Sergeant informed the Indians, who were very much affected with them, and very thankful to their pious Benefactors. And as a grateful Acknowledgment of the Benefits they had received from the Honourable Corporation in England, they wrote them a Letter of Thanks, testifying the Sense they had of their Favours, and begging a farther Continuance of them.

In July, his Excellency Governor Belcher invited the Indians to a Conference at Boston, and desired Mr. Sergeant to accompany them. Accordingly Mr.
Mr. Sergeant, and a Number of the Stockbridge Indians, with about as many Strangers from Hudson's River, went to Boston, and on the Fifth of August waited on the Governor and Council.

The Lieutenant in a Speech, which he made in the Name of the Rest, expressed great Thankfulness for the Kindness the Government had already shewn them, particularly in granting them a Township for the Conveniency of their living together; and in Return gave up their Claim to a Tract of Land two Miles wide, and Twenty-six Miles long, lying on each Side the Road between Westfield and Sheffield; and concluded with praying for the Assistance of the Government in building a Meeting-House, and School-House.

To this the Governor replied, that the Government was well pleased with the Inclination they had shewn to receive the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so long as that good Disposition remained, would not repent of the Care and Charge they had been at to accommodate them for their better Instruction in the Way of Life; that they accepted very kindly the Land they gave up their Claim to; and that he would make known to the General Court, at the next Session, their Desire respecting a Meeting and School-House.

After mutual Presents, the Indians went Home very much pleased with the Treatment they met with.

At the next Session of the General Court, the Governor informed them of the Desire of the Indians; and the General Court immediately ordered a Meeting House of Thirty Feet broad, and Forty long, together with a School House, to be built for the Indians at the Charge of the Province; and that Colonel Stoddard, Mr. Sergeant, and Mr. Woodbridge, should see these Things effected.

C 1737. This
1737. This Winter several new Families were added, and a Number of particular Persons came to be instructed; and several were from Time to Time baptized. For the Use of the Children, Mr. Sergeant translated into the Indian Language Mr. Watt's first Catechism. The only Thing that gave him Uneasiness was a Dutch Neighbour, who kept a Quantity of Rum by him, and either gave or sold it to the Indians, so that some of them drank to Excess.

In the Spring the Indians went out as usual to make Sugar, but returned from their Work every Week, and attended the public Worship on the Sabbath.

In August, Mr. Sergeant began to preach to the Indians in their own Language, and soon became so perfect in it, that the Indians used to say, "Our Minister speaks our Language better than we do ourselves."

Soon after being informed that the Indians at Kannahumek (a Place about eighteen Miles Northwest of Stockbridge) were desirous to hear him, he went and preached to them. They received him, and entertained him kindly, and were so affected with what they heard, that two of their principal Men soon after embraced Christianity; and one sent his Daughter, an only Child, to Stockbridge, that she might go to School; and the other came with his Family, and settled there.

1738. In the Beginning of the Year 1738, the generous Proposal of Mr. Hollis, to maintain twelve Boys, began to be carried into Execution. It was deferred hitherto, till Mr. Sergeant, who intended to take the Boys under his own Care, had built a House for their Reception. He began to build in the Spring, but, for want of Money, was not able to finish it till late in the Fall. His Salary was no more
more than One Hundred and Fifty Pounds, Boston Money (about Twenty-seven Pounds Sterling) and as Provisions were dear, little could be spared towards Building. Finding himself in necessitous Circumstances, he applied to the Commissioners, who granted him Fifty Pounds (about Nine Pounds Sterling;) but this not being sufficient, he was forced to apply for Relief to the General Assembly, who voted him One Hundred Pounds, Middle Tenor (about Sixty Pounds Sterling.) His Excellency Governor Belcher, who on all Occasions discovered a Regard for Mr. Sergeant, was very friendly to him on this Occasion, and enforced his Petition to the House.

Mr. Sergeant having taken Mr. Hollis’s twelve Boys into his own House, and under his own Instruction, found, upon Trial, that the Burden was too heavy for him. Therefore, after the first Year, as many of them as he could persuade to go, he sent abroad into English Families, where they were supported by Mr. Hollis’s Bounty, and went to School to perfect themselves in Reading and Writing. And those, who refused to go from Home, lived with their Parents, and went to Mr. Woodbridge’s School.

On the Fourth of June, Mr. Sergeant, for the first Time, administred the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper to his People. There were eleven Communicants of the Indians, who attended the Ordnance with the greatest Seriousness and apparent Devotion.

The One Hundred Pounds, which Mr. Holden directed Doctor Colman to employ for the Benefit of the Indians at Stockbridge, Mr. Sergeant now proposed to expend upon the Females, by supporting some of the young Women abroad in English Families. But when this was communicated to the Indians, though some approved the Proposal, yet others opposed it, so that only two were sent abroad,
and those, through a Fondness for Home, could not be prevailed on to stay any Time.

The Design therefore of employing the Money for the Benefit of the young Women failing, and Doctor Coleman being fully acquainted with Mr. Sergeant's Neccessities, and having Mr. Holden's Commands to assist him, he gave him the Money to assist him in his Settlement, and at the same time desired him, if any Door opened for instructing Girls in Womens Work, as was before proposed, to inform him of it, and draw upon him for Fifty or One Hundred Pounds before the Year was out, and he would answer his Draught, on Mr. Holden's Account.

Soon after, Mr. Sergeant received One Hundred Pounds, a Present from the Honourable Corporation in London. About the same time also, he received a Legacy of Ten Pounds, left him by the late Reverend Mr. Ward. He was also from Time to Time relieved by considerable Presents, from generous and well disposed Persons. And by these Helps was he enabled to go on with his Settlement at Stockbridge, which otherwise he could not have done.

In the Close of this Year, the Indians were laid under a new Obligation, by a generous Gift of Three Hundred Pounds, from the Honourable Society in England, which was to be laid out in purchasing Ploughs, Axes, Hoes, &c. to help them in carrying on their Husbandry, and in assisting them to build Houses after the English Taste.---

This Year also, agreeable to the Order of the General Court, four English Families came and settled at Stockbridge.

1739. In the Year 1739, there appeared an uncommon Desire in the neighbouring Indians to hear Mr. Sergeant. Some came from distant Parts
to Stockbridge for that End only, others sent for him to preach to them at the Place of their Abode. And Mr. Sergeant never failed to improve all those Opportunities, in endeavouring to promote their Spiritual Good.

In the Summer, Mr. Sergeant was married to Miss Abigail Williams, eldest Daughter of Ephraim Williams, Esq; one of those who lately settled at Stockbridge. As his Expences were now increased, and the Value of Money on the Decline, he found himself reduced to some Straits, but was seasonably relieved by some timely Presents. From England he received between Four and Five Pounds, and out of Mr. Holden’s Charity, Doctor Coleman remitted him Seventy Pounds, and Fifty Pounds to Mr. Woodbridge.

The Meeting-House built for the Indians, at the Charge of the Province, was now so far compleated, that in November they met and attended the public Worship in it.

As the Indians were much addicted to Drunkenness, Mr. Sergeant, and others, concerned for their Good, endeavoured to use all proper Measures to prevent their running into Excess; and accordingly motioned to the Indians, to restrain those among themselves, who were wont to make Gain by bringing Rum into the Place, and selling it to others; this the well disposed Indians freely came into, and agreed upon a Penalty of Forty Pounds, York Money, to be laid upon those who should do it. Those also, who kept Taverns in neighbouring Places, and had sold Drink to such Indians as were given to Excess, they reproved, and endeavoured to dissuade them from a Practice which proved so hurtful to the Indians. But some evil minded Persons, among the English and Dutch, made a Handle of these Things, to disgust the Indians; telling them,
this was an unreasonable Incroachment upon their Liberty; and that those, who abridged them of the Liberty of using Drink, would soon encroach upon their other Liberties; and that they were used worse than Slaves; that they were treated worse than Dogs, and the like. By these Insinuations the Indians, who are as fond of Liberty as of strong Drink, were much disturbed, and some of them went into great Degrees of Excess. However, though there were some disorderly Persons among the Indians, who were too free with strong Drink, yet the greater Part behaved well.

1740. Their Number at Stockbridge continued to increase by the Addition of new Families from abroad. So that from about Fifty, the Number when Mr. Sergeant went among them, they were in March, 1740, increased to One Hundred and Twenty.

In September, Doctor Colman informed Mr. Sergeant of the Death of the Honourable Samuel Holden, of London, and adds; "So that Spring of your "Comfort and Support is cut off." However, the Doctor once more assisted Mr. Sergeant, and Mr. Woodbridge, with something of what remained of that Gentleman's Money, sending the former Twenty Pounds, and the latter Ten.

1741. About this Time the Indians seemed fully sensible of the Advantages of Christianity, and the evil Consequences of their former Ways; and consequently became more concerned for their Brethren, who were still in the Darkness of Ignorance and Error. First they sent a Belt with a Message to their Brethren the Shawanese (who lived on the Banks of Sasquehannab) telling them drinking was not good, and desiring them to leave it off. The Shawanese in Answer thanked them for their Advice, and promised to observe it. And the Messenger who
who brought the Answer said, that upon receiving the Message and Belt, they actually made a Law against buying any Rum of the Traders, and had broken some Casks, in which they brought it to them, and spilt the Rum. The Success of this Message, encouraged them to send another, recommending to them the Christian Religion, and desiring them to embrace it. To this they received no direct Answer, only they heard that it occasioned much Talk among them, and that some proposed sending their Children to Stockbridge, to be instructed in Learning, and in the Doctrines of Christianity. These Things induced Mr. Sergeant in the Summer, 1741, to visit the Shawanese, with a Design to open the Way for a Mission to those Indians. It was a long and tedious Journey of about Two Hundred and Twenty Miles, and the more fatiguing, as the Success did not answer his Expectation. Upon his Arrival they shewed an utter Aversion to Christianity, and would hear nothing he had to say in Favour of it. The Account he himself gives is as follows; "I found, says he, they had strong and invincible Prejudices against Christianity, at least the Protestant Religion; derived, it should seem, from the French, and confirmed by their own Observation of the Behaviour of that vile Sort of Men, the Traders, that go among them. For they said (which I believe is an unhappy and reproachful Truth) that they would lie, cheat, and debauch their Women, and even their Wives, if their Husbands were not at Home. They were further prejudiced against Christianity, from the inhospitable Treatment they had sometimes met with, from those who called themselves Christians. They said further, that the Senecas gave them their Land, but charged them never to receive Christianity from us." Thus
Thus it appears from the Answer of the Shawanese, and from Captain Kneck's Objections, as well as from a Speech which Lieutenant Unparbenes made to the Commissioners appointed to lay out a Township for the Housatunack Indians, that the Conduct of professing Christians is a great Stumbling-block to the Indians. The Lieutenant's Speech is too particular not to be mentioned. After expressing his Thankfulness and great Obligations to the English, for the Care they had taken to instruct his Tribe in the Knowledge of the Gospel, and for teaching their Children to read, he said, with great Earnestness, that there were two or three Things which appeared dark in his Eyes. First, "He wondered they had been neglected so long, and desired to know the true Spring of the great Favour so suddenly shewn them. If it was from Love and Good-will towards them, he, for his Part, accepted it with great Thankfulness; but possibly there might be some secret Spring and moving Cause he was not acquainted with, that might lessen their Obligations to Gratitude." Again, another Thing he could not but wonder at, was, that if the Christian Religion was so true and good, as he esteemed it to be, how there should be so many Professors of it, that lived such vicious Lives, and so contrary to what he was told were the Rules of it."

In his return Home, Mr. Sergeant preached to the Delawares, who gave a very diligent Attention to what he said, and of whom he conceived a very favourable Opinion. The whole Tribe, according to his Account, is about Four Hundred in Number, but much dispersed, having no Accommodation of Land. Could they be provided with Land, that they might live together, he thought there was
was a hopeful Prospect of a successful Mission among them.

Mr. Sergeant had now learned, from several Years Experience, that the Indian Customs, and Way of Living, were great Impediments to the Progress of Christianity, and their behaving agreeable to their Profession. The Men love an idle, indolent Life, which is very unfriendly to Religion, and the Women being obliged to plant, and do all the Business abroad, cannot attend to the Care of their Families. In order therefore to remedy these Things, he proposed to Doctor Colman, just before his Journey to the Shawsenese, the setting up a Charity School, for instructing Children in Labour and Industry, as well as Learning. His Design was to take the Children while young, and train up both Sexes in Business proper for them, that when they grew up, they might be both able and willing to practice Industry and Economy; in short, to raise them, as far as possible, into the Condition of a civil, industrious and polished People, to instil into their Minds the Principles of Virtue and Piety, and withal to introduce the English Language among them. The Jealousies of the Indians, he apprehended, would be a considerable Bar in the Way, and therefore did not mention it to them at first.

Doctor Colman received the Proposal with some Surprize, highly approved of it, and used his utmost Endeavours to encourage and promote it. He immediately communicated the Design to his worthy Friend Mr. Hollis, who readily agreed to encourage it, and to assist in carrying it into Execution, but at the same time could not help expressing his Wonder and very great Offence, that so little was done by the People of New-England, for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge among the Heathen. Nor indeed was this without Reason; for while
this charitable and generous Gentleman had been at the Expence of Two Hundred and Eight Pounds Sterling, in the Space of about Four or Five Years, for maintaining twelve Indian Boys, not one of their rich Men had lent any Assistance, which was a great Discouragement to him.

1743. As the Difficulties, which Mr. Sergeant apprehended would attend the setting up a Boarding-School, viz. the unreasonable Jealousies of the Indians, by Degrees vanished, in the Beginning of the Year 1743, he thought them ripe for such a Proposal, and therefore wrote to Doctor Colman on the Subject, requesting him to draw up a general Plan of a School, for the Education of Indian Children, which should not only provide for their Instruction in Learning, but also in Labour, and to send it to him, that he might try the Temper of the Indians with it.

The Doctor excused himself from drawing up the Plan, and desired Mr. Sergeant to attempt it himself, which he accordingly did in a Letter to Doctor Colman, of the First of August.

"Therein he proposes to procure an Accommodation of about Two Hundred Acres of Land at Stockbridge (which he thought might be had without any Cost of the Indian Proprietors) to erect a House on it, such as shall be thought convenient for a Beginning; and in it to maintain a Number of Children and Youth (not under Ten, nor above Twenty Years of Age) to have them under the Direction, Care, and Tuition of two Masters; one to take the Oversight of them in their Hours of Labour, and the other in their Hours of Study; and to have their Time so divided between Study and Labour, as to make one the Diversion of the other, that as little Time as possible may be lost; that the Fruit of their Labour go to their own Maintenance,"
"Maintenance, and to carry on the general Design, except perhaps some particular Premiums out of the Profits of their Labour, if it can be afforded, to encourage Industry; that a Stock of Cattle, &c. be maintained on the Place; that any from among the neighbouring Tribes of Indians be admitted, that by their Means, under the Blessing of GOD, the Principles of Virtue and Christian Knowledge may be spread as far as possible, which may perhaps, in a Course of Years, open the Way for the Propagation of Christianity to the remotest Tribes. That, provided a sufficient Fund can be procured, Girls be taken in as well as Boys, to be educated in a Manner suitable to the Condition of their Sex; for the Cultivation of both Sexes has a natural Tendency to improve each other more easily and successfully: That the Discipline to be used with them, be as strict as those will bear, who know nothing of Government among themselves, and have an Aversion to every Thing that restrains their Liberty."

"The laying the Foundation, and supporting so great a Design, he was sensible, would be expensive; but he hoped its apparent Goodness would recommend it to all charitably disposed Persons, who would gladly honour GOD with their Substance; and that a Design so generous in its Intention, calculated for the common Good of a very miserable and degenerate Part of our Race, void of all party View (and he might have added so advantageous to the British Interest in general, and to the several Colonies in particular) would be approved of and promoted by Persons of all Parties, who had any Concern for the Glory of our common Maker, and for the Honour of our common Saviour, or who were only inspired with the generous Sentiments
of Compassion to the Miserable," or had any Regard for their Country.

As he apprehended that the Neglect of promoting Industry among the Indians, was the chief moral Reason of so little having been hitherto done in forming their Manners, he had the greater Hopes of Success from the present Project: But however that should be, he thought the mere Suspicion that the Design in the Event will prove unsuccessful, ought not to discourage the Attempt; especially as the Benefactors will not lose their Reward with GOD, though the Design should not be crowned with all the happy Success that might be wished and hoped for.

To obviate an Objection that might be made against attempting any Thing of this Sort, because the Indians are a base, ungrateful People, and insensible of Kindnesses done them, he says; "that though it were true that such is the Temper of Indians, yet I think it rather an Argument in Favour of a Projection calculated to promote Humanity among them; for the Objection supposed them to be greatly debased, and shews the Need there is of cultivating a Soil so over run with hateful Weeds. But whatever Weight this Objection might have with others, certainly it ought to have none with a Christian, who is commanded to imitate the Benevolence of his Heavenly Father, who does Good to the Evil and Unthankful. Had this Consideration swayed the Mind of our blessed Saviour, would he ever have shed his Blood for those who pursued his Life to Death?"

And that it may not be thought, from what he had written above, that all that had been done to introduce Christianity and good Manners had proved in vain, he adds, "that by the Grace of GOD, some good Effects had attended his Labours, and that
the Indians seem now well prepared for the Execution of what he had proposed;" which their Jealousy would have been an effectual Hindrance to a few Years ago.

This Letter of Mr. Sergeant's, with a warm Recommendation annexed by Doctor Colman, were by the Doctor immediately published and distributed, in order to excite the pious, generous, and well-disposed in this Country, and in Great-Britain, to charitable Contributions for the setting up and supporting the proposed Boarding-School.

Several Copies he sent to his Friends in Great-Britain, and did every Thing in his Power, for carrying into Execution so good a Design. But the Encouragement it met with was very small. For in May, 1744, the Doctor in a Letter informed Mr. Sergeant, that he had received no Subscription, except One Hundred Pounds from Madam Holden.

He wrote to the Commissioners for Indians on the Subject, and recommended it to some of the Members of the General Court, but all to no Effect. The Reason of which might be, that the War with France now coming on, drew the Attention of all another Way, and for the present discouraged those who were well inclined, Stockbridge being an exposed Place, where no such Design could be carried on in Time of War to Advantage.

However it must be said, that there was an inexcusable Coldness and Indifference shewn in the Affair by the People of New England, when we consider the Importance of it, and the happy Prospect there was of its succeeding, if it had been duly encouraged.

What a different Spirit did the generous Mr. Holis shew on the Occasion? Immediately upon the Receipt of Doctor Colman's Letter, before Mr. Sergeant's
geant's Scheme was published, he wrote an Answer in the following Words:

"I am pleased with your Proposal about settling a Boarding-School for Indian Children. I like it well. May it please the Lord to incline the Hearts of many to contribute towards it. I desire you would take up for me twelve Boys at once, about the Age of Nine, Ten, Eleven, or Twelve Years, and let them be totally maintained at my Expence, with Food and Raiment, and the like. Please to apply to Colonel Wendell for what Money you want. N.B. I would have none but Boys educated for me, but it may be well if a Number of Girls could be educated on the Account of some others."

Alas! he did not know the Spirit of the People. For while he, a Stranger, was at his private Expence, supporting Twenty-four Boys, the whole Land was so far from contributing to support an equal Number of Girls, that they did not indeed support one.

Thus rested for the present this important Affair of the Boarding-School, and nothing more was done about it in New-England, till the Year 1747.

This Projection of the Boarding-School, and the Pains Mr. Sergeant was at to promote it, took up a considerable Part of his Time and Thoughts, for it lay very near his Heart. But, at the same time, he prosecuted his Work among the Indians with Industry and Faithfulness. And as he was laborious and faithful in the Work, to which he was called, so there was good Reason to conclude that he was successful therein, not only from the Increase of Knowledge, and a visible Reformation of Manners among the Indians; but also from the Temper of Mind several of them discovered at the Time of their Death.

Though the Affair of the Boarding-School seemed quite dead in New-England, yet some Things were acted
acted in Favour of it in England, by some generous and public spirited Persons, to whom Doctor Colman had sent Mr. Sergeant's printed Letter, and his own Recommendation of it.

The honourable Corporation for Indian Affairs in London highly approved of the Proposal, and promised, when there should be a Prospect of its taking Effect, they would consider the Matter, and encourage it as much as they conveniently could.

Doctor Watts, to whom one of the Proposals was sent, testified his approbation of the Design, by a Bill for Seventy Pounds, Boston Currency.

Captain Thomas Coram, of London, a Gentleman who has discovered a generous and noble Spirit, in divers Projections, for the Benefit of the Nation, and for the good of Mankind, in some of which he happily succeeded, received also from Doctor Colman one of Mr. Sergeant's Proposals for a Boarding-School. Upon reading it he was so charmed with Mr. Sergeant's Undertaking, that he exerted himself abundantly to promote it. He first got a Book bound, and a proper Preamble writ in it, for Benefactors to subscribe to, for the Benefit of Mr. Sergeant's School: He then applied to several wealthy Persons both in City and Country; and though he found many who expressed their Willingness to encourage so good a Design by their Contributions, yet he could find no Person who was willing his Name should stand first in the Subscription. This put him upon preferring a Petition to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that he would honour and encourage this noble Design, by placing his Name at the Head of the Subscription. The Petition was laid before the Prince by Doctor Mylchough, Clerk of the Closet, and first Chaplain to his Royal Highness. Upon the first Motion, his Royal Highness declared himself ready and free to encour-
rage so good and laudable a Design, placed his Name at the Head of the Subscription, and gave Twenty Guineas for the Encouragement of the Boarding-School, which was paid to Captain Coram. Doctor Astlough, for himself, presented the Congregation at S. rckbridge with a Bible of the largest Sort, neatly gilt and bound, three Volumes, Folio.

Captain Coram having succeeded with the Prince, applied next to the Duke of Cumberland, desiring he would contribute Ten Guineas. But the Duke generously replied, it would be shameful to give so small a Sum to so good a Purpose, and subscribed Twenty.

The Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Dorset, and the Lord Gower, gave each Five Guineas. And here this Subscription ended, occasioned by the ill Usage one or two Persons offered to the generous Promoter of it, upon his applying to them for their Bounty.

What Captain Coram collected, he sent to Mr. Wallis, of Boston, by whom it came to Mr. Sergeant's Hands.

I have before taken Notice, that as soon as Mr. Hollis was informed of Mr. Sergeant's Design of a Boarding School, he ordered twelve Boys more to be taken in, and educated wholly at his Cost. But by Reason of the War, his Orders were not carried into Execution, and the whole Affair of the Boarding-School was deferred till a more favourable Opportunity. Mr. Hollis being acquainted of this, wrote to Doctor Colman in the Year 1747, insisting upon it, that twelve Boys should, without further Delay, be taken up and educated at his Charge.---

"I am not willing, says he, to have my Money of "Three Hundred and Fifty Pounds, your Currency, "lying by useless till the War is ended. And I do "herewith appoint, that there be Twelve more "Haythen
Heathen Boys taken on my Account, to be entirely provided for with Lodging and Maintenance, and to be instructed in the Christian Doctrine. And after I know of this Order being complied with, I design to make a large Remittance for further carrying on this Work.

A Committee having been before appointed to receive and disburse the Money, that might be given to carry on the Design of the Boarding-School, and Doctor Colman having paid into their Hands Mr. Hollis's Money, upon Receipt of the foregoing Letter, he wrote to Mr. Sergeant, informing him of Mr. Hollis's Desire, and requesting him to communicate it to the Committee, that it might as soon as possible be complied with. Soon after, he wrote another Letter to Mr. Sergeant, encouraging him in the Work begun, and in four Days after died, as it were, with his Pen in his Hand, labouring to promote the Good of his Country, the Prosperity of his Friends, and eternal Salvation of precious Souls.

Things relating to the Boarding-School now appearing with a favourable Aspect, and Mr. Hollis urging that twelve Boys might immediately be supported and educated at his Expense, Mr. Sergeant began to think of prosecuting the Design in the Manner he proposed. He first applied to the Indians, who cheerfully granted Two Hundred Acres of Land to build the School-House upon, and to be cultivated by the Children, who should receive their Education there. He next conferred with the Committee. These proposed to be made a Body Politick to act in that Business; others, to whom they communicated their Proposal, advised rather to commit the Affair to the London Corporation; to be transacted by their Commissioners in Bolton. The Commissioners themselves were also of the same Mind.
Mind. But neither the one nor the other was done; and the whole Care of that Affair devolved on Mr. Sergeant, who resolved to exert his utmost to carry it into Execution, and immediately set about building a House for the Purpose.

Of these Steps he took Care to inform Mr. Hollis, who finding that his Order had not yet been complied with, pressed that it might be no longer deferred.

Mr. Hollis thus continuing to urge the Execution of his Orders, and the War continuing, which forbade its being done with any Convenience at Stockbridge, Mr. Sergeant prevailed upon Captain Martin Kelley a Gentleman of Newington, in Casasbuc, to take the twelve Boys for one Year, and to instruct them both in Learning and Labour. As soon as it was proposed to the Indians, they readily consented that their Children should go. And in May, 1748, Mr. Hollis’s twelve Boys were sent to Newington.

The Sum of Money Mr. Sergeant had for erecting a suitable Building was but small; However, he resolved to use what he had, and endeavoured to procure more. For this Purpose he wrote to several reverend Gentlemen, in different Parts of the Province, to excite them to put forward a Subscription; but the Encouragement he met with was very small.

He likewise wrote to the honourable Society in Scotland for propagating the Gospel; but received no Answer.

While he was thus with much Pains and Industry prosecuting that good and pious Design, which was attended with many Discouragements, he had the Pleasure of receiving a very kind and obliging Letter from the Reverend Doctor Ayseugh. In this Letter the Doctor requests Mr. Sergeant to “give him a full and particular Account of the Scheme he was
was pursuing;" to inform him of "the Situation and Condition of the Place where he was settled, and of the Country round it; what Progress he had made; of what Number, and what Sort of Persons his Congregation consisted; the State of the School lately set up for the Indian Children; and whether he had any Salary or certain Appointment for his Labours." And then adds, "When I am supplied "with these Materials, you may depend on my "soliciting in the strongest Manner, and doing the "utmost in my Power to encourage and support so "pious an Undertaking."

As Mr. Sergeant received this Letter but a little while before his Death, and had not an Opportunity to answer it, for the Satisfaction of the Doctor, and others, who may want to be informed in these Things, it is thought proper to subjoin the following brief Account.

As for the Scheme which Mr. Sergeant was pursuing, it was the same he proposed in his Letter to Doctor Colman. His Design was, that the Indian Boys, under the Care of a faithful Master, who should labour with and inspect them, should cultivate the Two Hundred Acres of Land on which they live; that they should raise all Sorts of Provisions; that they should keep upon the Farm a Stock of Cattle, Sheep, &c. that the Girls should be under the Care of a suitable Mistress, and employed in manufacturing the Wool, Flax, &c. that should be raised on it, and in all Sorts of Business suitable to their Sex. By this Means the Children might, after some Time, in a great Measure, if not wholly, support themselves; be formed to Industry, acquainted with the English Language and Manners, and be fit, at Twenty Years of Age, to enter upon Farms of their own.
As to the Situation of the Place, it may be easily known, by inspecting Lewis Evans’s Map of the Middle British Colonies in America.

What Progress Mr. Sergeant made, may be known from the Account given above. As to the Number of his Congregation, and what Sort of Persons it consisted of, Mr. Woodbridge informs, that at Mr. Sergeant’s Death there were Fifty-three Indian Families in the Town, that they owned Twenty Houses, built after the English Mode, and that the whole Number of Indians living at Stockbridge was Two Hundred and Eighteen, of which One Hundred and Twenty-nine have been baptized. Of these Forty-two were Communicants. The Number of Scholars belonging to Mr. Woodbridge’s School was Fifty-five. There were also Twelve or Thirteen English Families dwelling there.

As to the Boarding-School, after the twelve Boys had been a Year with Captain Kellog, and it was found they made a very considerable Proficiency, Mr. Sergeant pressed him to take the Care of them one Year at Stockbridge, to which he consented: And after instructing them a while in a private House, he went with them into the Boarding-School, which was prepared for their Reception, but far from being finished. Such was the State of that School when Mr. Sergeant died. The House erected is Thirty-eight Feet long, and Thirty-six wide, has three Fire Rooms on one Floor, and two convenient Rooms besides; and a large Cellar under the Whole.

As to Mr. Sergeant’s Salary (which was paid him by the Commissioners) it never amounted to more than Twenty-seven Pounds, Five Shillings, and Eight Pence, Sterling, per Annum, which was so small, that had it not been for the Helps he received from Doctor Colman’s Hand, and from other generous
and well disposed Persons, he could not have subsisted at Stockbridge so long a Time. And after all the Helps he had, he was, while living, involved in many Difficulties, by reason of the Scantiness of his Support; and when he died, left his Estate involved in a Debt of between Seven and Eight Hundred Pounds, New-England Currency, though he had sold some of it before, to answer his necessary Expences.

While Mr. Sergeant was carefully and faithfully proceeding in his Ministerial Labours, and with much Pains, Industry, and Application, prosecuting that excellent and pious Design of the Boarding-School, purposing also in a little Time to go into the Mohawk's Country to invite their Children to it, he was seized with a nervous Fever, attended with a Cancer, which in a few Weeks put an End to his precious Life, on July 27, 1749, in the Thirty-ninth Year of his Age.

There were some Thoughts of continuing the Account of the Indian Affairs at Stockbridge down to the present time, and to have given an Account of Mr. Hollis's encreasing the Boys, to be maintained and educated at his Expence, to the Number of Thirty-six, allowing for each Boy Five Pounds Sterling per Annum; of what the General Assemblies of Massachusetts and Connecticut have done, to encourage the Mohawks to send their Children to be educated at Stockbridge, a considerabel Number of them being already come thither for that End; of what Captain Coram did in England, before his Death, to promote a Female Boarding-School at Stockbridge, and what the honourable Society in London have done with Respect to it since; of the Reverend Mr. Edwards succeeding Mr. Sergeant in the Ministry, as a Missionary to the Indians, &c. &c.
but for Want of proper Materials, this must be left to some future Time, and abler Hand.

Towards the Beginning, the Reader has been occasionally informed of Mr. Barclay's being employed among the Indians, and of his Design to get episcopal Orders, and to be a Missionary to them, if the Society for propagating the Gospel in foreign Parts would support him.--This his Purpose he put in Execution, went to England, was ordained by the Bishop of London, and received a Mission from the Society, but withal too scanty an Allowance to maintain him in that Service. So that he was obliged at the same time to officiate as Chaplain to the King's Garrison at Albany, and to spend one Half of his Time there, and the other at his Mohawk Congregation, which was at Forty Miles Distance. This Inconvenience, together with the Want of an Interpreter, which for want of Money he could not procure, prevented him from being as serviceable as he might have been, had he been duly encouraged. What a Prospect there was, appears from several Letters he wrote to Mr. Sergeant. In one of them, he says, "They daily become more and more de-

"sirous of Instruction, and would, in all Probability, "make great Progress, both in the Knowledge and "Practice of Christianity, were proper Methods "taken to instruct them. I see daily a great "Reformation of Manners among them."--And in another, "My Mohawk Congregation behaved "so well, that all the Auditory were exceedingly "delighted."--

Now considering the dark State of Ignorance and Error, in which those poor Creatures remain, and the ready Disposition they shewed to receive In-

struction, and, at the same time, considering of what Importance the Mohawks, or Six Nations, are to the British Interest, and withal, the Endeavours
the French use to proselyte them to their Religion, and engage them in their Interest, all must acknowledge, that both Charity and Policy call for the most vigorous Endeavours to propagate the Gospel among these Heathen Nations.

The many Missionaries, which the Honourable Society for the propagating of the Gospel in foreign Parts, maintain in the principal Towns of New-England, Jersey, Pennsylvania, &c. evidently shew, that they want not Ability to help these poor Heathens. And whether they who have the Disposal of one of the noblest Charities that has ever been known, would not employ that Charity full as well, if not better, in supporting Missionaries among the Indians, where the Gospel is not known; whether this would not be more agreeable to the pious Design of the Donors, as well as the professed Ends of the Society; and whether Mr. Barclay, who was so heartily engaged in that excellent and self-denying Service, of propagating the Gospel among the Mohawks, should not have been encouraged by a plentiful Support from the Society, and by the Support of a School-Master, and Interpreter, for his Assistance, rather than a Missionary at Boston, Newport, &c. I leave to the Reader to judge.---

It is not to be doubted, but that the Honourable Society act with Integrity and Uprightness; and dispose of the Charity in their Hands, in a Manner that appears right and best to them, according to the Information they have. Yet, at the same time, I am fully persuaded, that if they were well acquainted with the true State of Things in this distant Part of the World, they would see Cause to alter their Conduct. "I am sure, says Doctor Colman, "in a Letter to the Bishop of London, were your Lordship and the pious Trustees here on the Spot, "you would not think the professed End of your Charter,
"Charter, and the Design of the Donors answered; in your supporting Missionaries at Boston, Brain-
tree, Newberry, Stratford, Bristol, Salem, Groton, &c. Or if Sea Ports of great Trade, such as
Boston, Newport, Marblehead, need to have Mi-

nisters of the Church of England, for the Sake
of some Inhabitants and Strangers, ye: are they
well able to support their own Worship; or did
they want some Assistance, there can be no Pre-
tence for it out of a Fund sacred to GOD, for
sending the Gospel into dark and ignorant Parts
of the Earth: They ought to be provided for:
some other Way, and not by alienating a devoted
and confined Charity, which were to run the
Risque of Sacrilege and great Unfaithfulness."

If indeed the Honourable Society judge it of
greater Importance, more to the Honour of GOD,
and Good of Souls, more agreeable to the Ends of their
Charter, and the charitable Designs of the pious
Donors, to convert those of the Presbyterian and
Congregational Persuasion to the Church of Eng-
land, than those poor perishing Heathen to the
Christian Religion; then it is not strange, that they
should employ the Money in their Hands as they
at present do. But upon what Grounds they should
form such a Judgment, is not easy to apprehend.

FINIS.