

W. should like to hear of something being done—
of some *able and reliable* laws enacted, and vigorously
enforced and permanently adhered to, for the better gov-
erning the Indian population—of domesticated or tame
Indians. Now we are not aware that the past will af-
ford multiplied instances of action, or of wholesome mea-
sures, or in yet the present, in our mind, indicative of a
fruitful experiment for the past mismanagement, nor does
the future smile with the prospect of speedy relief and
effective laws. Are the decisions of former law-makers
at all governing the present and future, and are they de-
signed to do good work in behalf of Government? If so, why
are our lands infested with idle, drunken, and thievish
Indians? If so, why is this class of hire destitute of em-
ployment, or why unprovided with certificates of locality,
and permitted to wander about the country in an idle
and dissipated manner," or, if so, what act establishes the
right of traffic, and holds them in the "light of slaves?"
General orders, circulars, and proclamations have held
out inducements to believe in the efficiency of what ex-
perience has taught faithless: "hope deferred maketh the
heart sick."
We are not much of the mind of endurance as is politic
and prudent, and would not complain in this instance, did
a single thing and welcome event, cast its shadow be-
fore. We know, military governed as we are, where
there is earnest will, a remedying way may not be
despaired of. We know that the displeasure is general,
and the aptitude of preceding rulers, to alleviate the
ills and reform, in this new land, counsed over, and
perhaps with too much earnestness adjudged the presage

and the... multitude of preceding rulers, to alleviate the
ills and... reform, in this new land, counsed over, and
perhaps... too much earnestness adjudged the presage
of imper... greater evil.

During... summer visit to one of the charming north-
ern vallies... we ascertained at the house of an aged and
influential resident, among the first of the country, how
ineffectual were the endeavors of himself and neighbors,
to retain... Indian laborers, even by the best and most
conciliatory treatment, since it became current that Gov-
ernment did not protect their masters from theft and de-
sertion, and afford no obstacle to a dissolute mode of life,
with apparant indulgence of Indian indolence. He show-
ed us that any inclination to abandon their usual avoca-
tions in his employ, could not be resisted, and had prov-
ed a sad detriment to farming operations throughout the
vallies.

May not the propriety of definite regulations for the
subordination and welfare of the Indians, located within
the settlements, next and earliest arrest the attention of
the administrators of the laws? The sale of spirituous
liquors to Indians has been of late prohibited, and their
employers and the public generally will rejoice that it is
so. Now, connected with this, would be the enforcing of
former constructed laws, if yet these exist to enforce.
The vagrants should be schooled to labor—the criminal
offenders subjected to punishment. The multitude would
then be provided for, and the prohibition of drunkenness
be of little avail, when superceded in effect by restrictions
less severe, but of greater weight and value.