

The Musquakie Indians

The article in Nos. 30 & 31 of the current volume of the Friend under the above caption was apparently written by a person of intelligence & information, & contains many interesting statements, were they fully to be relied upon; I know not from what source the author has derived his information, but in some important particulars it could not have been from reliable authority.

There is ^{always} great difficulty in collecting the necessary data for preparing an article of that kind for publication, especially when it concerns Indians, or probably any other people against whom "race prejudices" are as strong as it is on the part of the white population respecting the aboriginal inhabitants of our country. Great care is therefore necessary in order that all conclusions arrived at, as well as all statements made should have reliable authority for their foundation.

That these Indians are in a "worse moral condition to day than half a century ago, when their ancestors roamed over our boundless prairies," I will not undertake to deny. Although "to-day" dwelling in the "midst of civilization," the advantages of which are very apparent when viewed from our standpoint, ^{it may not be equally apparent to them} I would be just as unwilling to say that the Government is wholly answerable for this Indian wretchedness.