

the head waters of the Arkansas river, were formerly seen bands of the Camanches and Apaches, who came down from their mountains to hunt the buffalo and the elk on the adjacent plains. But the establishment of Fort Gibson on that river has changed somewhat the hunting ground of these tribes. As it is known that the lands belonging to the tribes in the southern part of Kansas are among the best of the Territory, and that the Arkansas river is navigable at least to Fort Gibson, the next rush, after the lands of the valley of Kansas and its tributaries are taken up, must be to the valley and bottoms of the Arkansas and its branches. Whenever that event happens, the Indians may as well gather together their moveable effects, and start for new hunting grounds.

The gradual extinction and decrease of these tribes, one after another, have been the theme of serious and melancholy reflection among intelligent and benevolent men.

We have always had men in our country who would constantly avail themselves of the opportunity to distribute ardent spirits among them. But our government has generally practised towards them a uniform and dignified moderation, and an unceasing forbearance.— Its provisions to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors among them have been severe, and in most cases carried into effect. Yet the strictness of our laws in this respect has been one of the most constant themes of complaint on their part; and the manner in which we have withheld the poisonous whiskey from them has been considered by them as the result alone of our covetousness:

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