

REPORTS ON INDIAN SETTLEMENTS, &c.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. PERLEY'S FIRST REPORT RESPECTING THE INDIANS ON THE SAINT JOHN,

Dated 12th August, 1841.

Mr. Perley having been appointed to visit the Indian Settlements, arrived at their Village on the 5th of July, where he found a large number of the Melicete Tribe assembled in expectation of his visit, and a Council being formed, he delivered to them a Speech, explaining to them his object in coming among them, to which they returned the following answer:—

After considerable discussion, the Council agreed upon their answer, which was delivered by Noel Nicholas, a Senior of the Tribe. He said, that they thanked their Mother the Queen for her good wishes toward them, and also their Father the Governor for the interest he took in their behalf. That they rejoiced very much to hear that lands were to be secured to them, and they promised to live on them and cultivate them, if they were allowed to acquire some individual rights in the land, as well as to have a general interest in the residue.

That their children should attend the Schools, as they wished them to learn to read and write. That if more lands were acquired at the Village many families that were now wandering about would settle their and lead regular lives.

That their head Chief at Caughnawagh had sent them his words by a Wampum Belt, and told them never to part with one inch of their land, and by that they wished to abide.

That it was their wish that any lands set apart for them might be secured to them by Deed or Grant, and that some person should be appointed Agent to look after such lands and manage their affairs.

→ There is at the Village a Chapel in a very delapidated condition. It is 54 feet long and 34 feet wide. The Indians are preparing to erect a new one, also 54 feet long but 46 feet wide. The frame Timber for the new Chapel is all on the spot, (except the Sills) and they have fourteen thousand feet of boards, but no shingles or siding. The Treasurers of the Tribe have in hand £15 15s. collected by subscription, and they have been informed that it will take three hundred pounds, besides what money and materials they now have, to finish the intended Chapel. They begged me to solicit aid in their behalf toward the new building.

They stated that the Priest visited them occasionally, but since there has been two Priests in Fredericton they have been visited much oftener than before. They have not, nor ever had, a School among them, and none of the children can either read or write.

The Village Lot contains about 320 acres, which has been purchased for them, and they have several very respectable dwellings built upon it. The house of Louis Bear is 26 by 36 feet, two stories in height, with a stone basement. The house of Vassall LaCoute is 15 by 18 feet, a story and a half in height. There are seven other framed houses occupied, and one now building, with eleven large standing wigwams. The land is good for tillage, and most of the residents cultivate Indian Corn and Potatoes, for which purpose each family has a certain portion of ground set apart. There is considerable meadow, the grass on which they sell standing, and divide the proceeds among them. They own two horses, four hogs and about 150 fowls. The constant cropping of the land without compost, must in a few years render it almost valueless for Agricultural purposes, and unless a different system is adopted, their attempts at cultivation will, after a time, cease entirely.

I found the most intelligent of the Indians at the Village exceedingly desirous that their

their children should have the benefit of Education, as they said they felt the want of it daily and hourly themselves, in transactions with their white neighbours. Some of the Seniors stated that if a School were established they would go to it themselves, as they longed to know how to read and write.

It appeared to be the general wish that the Village Lot should be increased by the purchase of one or more of the adjoining farms. I ascertained that the farms by which the Village Lot is bounded are for sale, and that they have on them respectable dwellings and substantial barns and out buildings. The farm to the northward belongs to Mr. Close, and that to the southward to Mr. Murray; the asking price of each is one thousand pounds currency.

From the Village I proceeded up the River Saint John, accompanied by two Canoe-men and an Interpreter, and next visited a small Settlement at Meductic Point, about eight miles below Woodstock. I found here only twenty nine souls.*

The Point occupied by the Indians is very beautifully situated; the land is alluvial, of the finest and richest description, but shamefully neglected, and almost a public common. It was stated to me that they had at first 113 rods in front on the River, and that their land run back three miles continuing the same breadth. That they had a writing stating the boundaries, signed by Governor Carleton, which some years ago was left at the Crown Lands Office, and they have not seen it since. That latterly one Peter Watson has taken possession of a considerable portion of their land by virtue of a Grant or Licence as he alleges, and they have now scarcely a half of the Lot assigned them by Governor Carleton, the boundaries of which were set up and marked during his administration by Mr. Bedell a Crown Surveyor.

This Meductic Point is not mentioned among the lands reserved for the Indians in the return made by the Surveyor General to His Excellency, but I beg to state that both by history and tradition it would seem to be one of the most ancient Indian Settlements on the Saint John. While there the remains of an old Indian Fort were pointed out to me, within which the bones of several hundred men repose, apparently in one common grave. It is said that the Indians built here a very strong Fort of earth and timber, to repel the French; that several desperate battles were fought on this spot, as also on the opposite side of the River, where many skeletons have likewise been found, and that these are the bones of the slain. The grave at this Fort has several times been opened by the curious, and numerous ancient Indian Spears and implements of Stone have been carried off.

There is now in possession of His Honor the Chief Justice, the certified copy of a Grant of this very place from the Crown of France to René D'Amour, Sieur de Clignancourt, bearing date the 20th September, 1684. A Seigneurie to be called "Clignancourt," is described in this Grant, commencing at "Meductet" and extending down to the Meductic Falls, with a depth of two leagues on each side the River.

The Baron de la Hontan, in his letters from Canada (written in 1690) mentions the Sieurs d'Amour of Quebec, as having a great Trading Establishment on the Saint John at that time; and it is to be presumed that the battles with the Indians occurred prior to such establishment, as the slain are found with stone weapons only, those of metal not being discovered, and it is well known that such were introduced and became common immediately after the French Traders obtained a footing among the Indians.

These circumstances are mentioned to show the long continued possession of the Indians at this place—a possession—maintained by the blood of their Fathers, and of which it is hoped the Tribe will never be deprived.

From this place I next proceeded to the River Tobique, where the Indians have a reserve of 16,000 acres, extending eight miles in front on the River Saint John, and running back the same breadth four miles.

On the right bank of the Tobique, at its confluence with the Saint John, stands an Indian Village consisting of thirty families, comprising 123 souls.

There are here eleven framed houses and twelve large standing wigwams. They have some land under crop (chiefly potatoes) but much cleared land which appears to have been formerly cultivated has been neglected; bushes have grown up upon it, and it is fast relapsing into a state of wilderness.

Fronting on the Saint John, and the left bank of the Tobique, there is a very fine piece

* There is some doubt whether the Land at Meductic Point has not been Granted.

piece of alluvial land called the Tobique Flat, on which a considerable quantity of hay is cut annually. The grass this year has been sold for thirty pounds to a person in the neighbourhood, who agreed to pay in cash, but subsequently told the Indians that money was not to be had and they must take provisions. This it appeared was a customary mode of dealing with the Indians; first to bargain with them for cash at a very inadequate price, and then taking advantage of their necessities, to palm off inferior articles of provision at an exorbitant rate in payment. I endeavoured to prevent it in this instance, by sending a written notice to the purchaser, that he must pay in cash according to his agreement, and also giving the Captain at Tobique an order in writing not to deliver any portion of the grass or hay until he received payment in money, for which he would hereafter account.

They have no Chapel here but are exceedingly anxious to get one up, for which purpose they have collected nearly sufficient scantling, with about two thousand feet of boards and twenty three thousand shingles. The Treasurer has Ten pounds in hand collected by subscription for the Chapel. The Rev. Antoine Gosselin comes to this place twice in each year for a short time from Madawaska. He informed me subsequently that he would visit the Tobique much oftener and remain longer if there were a place built for Public Worship.

There has never been a School here or the slightest attempt made to educate the rising generation; they are growing up much as they might be supposed to do if there were no civilized people in this Province.

In passing up the River, I found the front of the Indian Reserve, for about three miles above the Tobique Rock, cleared and cultivated by squatters, who have built houses and barns, and appear to make themselves quite at ease. They pay no rent, acknowledge no title, and from long impunity have become very insolent and overbearing. Besides occupying the land, they openly plunder the forest in the vicinity of the most valuable Timber, and dispose of it in the face of the Indians, whom they will scarcely allow to set foot upon the land, and invariably hunt off like wild beasts, if they attempt to look after or prevent the trespasses which are constantly committed.

As soon as the purpose for which I came was known, they drew themselves up in hostile array, and would not communicate. One of the Squatters, in answer to an enquiry, told me that he had lived on the land twenty years; that he had been several times sued, sometimes taken to Fredricton and sometimes to Woodstock, but beyond that, nothing had ever come of the suits; and, he supposed, could not. That he would never take a lease of the land, or pay rent, and if driven off, he would burn the buildings and devastate the land.

He told me that he came on the land in May, 1840; this year he has put up a house, and got in a crop. He has taken possession of a clay bank, for the purpose of commencing the manufacture of brick, and also of a Mill Privilege, intending to set up a Mill forthwith. I gave him a notice to desist and quit the property, when he admitted that he came there without any authority, merely because he saw many others do so with impunity, and he thought he also might as well have some benefit from the Indian Land.

While ranging the front of the Reserve I discovered a quantity of Scantling, (in all twenty one pieces,) cut and hauled to the bank of the Saint John, ready to be taken away. This I seized, and directed the Indians to remove to the Village for security. I then went on to seize some Birch Timber, and while absent, the Indians proceeded to get away the Scantling. The trespasser who had cut it came with a party of men and attempted a rescue. I returned immediately with the party of Indians who accompanied me, when the other party withdrew, and the Scantling was brought off and deposited at the Village.

Mr. — admitted to me that he had cut the Scantling without leave; that a Crown Officer had seized it, but told him that he might take it away on settling with the Indians, which he had not done. Much angry feeling was displayed by Mr. — and his party on this occasion, and in mere wantonness they destroyed the canoe of a poor Indian who landed at a store on the opposite side of the River to purchase goods.

It was stated to me broadly by Mr. — that it had so long been the custom for every person to cut as they pleased on Indian land, that they considered it right and lawful

lawful to do so, and if any objection were made (that is, if detected in the act, or before the removal of the Timber,) the payment of Stumpage made all right.

I learned at the Tobique that a number of persons had cut Timber on the Reserve during the past winter, and that Mr. — had been sent up to seize it, with instructions to give it up to the several parties on their satisfying the Indians. Under this arrangement the Indians received the trifling sum of eight pounds four shillings and six pence, chiefly paid in provisions at enormous prices. — cut a quantity of Birch Timber, which was seized; he then promised to pay the Indians at the rate of half a dollar for each tree, but succeeded in getting it away before payment, and now refuses to pay, as do others under like circumstances.

I found seven pieces of large Birch Timber just hauled out, which I seized, and I desired him to let it remain there until further orders; he promised that it should not be removed. On my return from Madawaska, I found that it had been carried off.

From all these circumstances His Excellency will at once perceive the impropriety of allowing Timber wilfully cut on the Indian Reserve, to be given up upon any terms. The only mode of stopping these constant trespasses is to confiscate the Timber in all cases, and when it is found that this course is adopted and rigidly adhered to, the wholesale plunder now going on, will be brought to an end, and the morals of the neighbourhood greatly improved.

The Timber seized from — was placed by the Indians with the Scantling intended for their Chapel, and they beg to be allowed to use it in that building.

The Indians having stated to me that the Mill erected on the Tobique, at the mouth of the Little Pokiok, was within the rear line of their land, I went up to the line, and found the Mills half a mile within it, on the Reserve. On my return to Fredericton, I made a careful examination of the Plans in the Crown Lands Office, and found that half the grant (including a valuable Mill Privilege) is actually part of the Indian Land.

Within the last few years a grant has passed of 550 acres of land to the Parish Church for a Glebe. By the grant plan the land appears to be bounded on the one side by the lower line of the Reserve, and on the other by a lot granted to Henry Merritt. On examination of the land, I found that the lower line of the Reserve, and the line of Merritt's lot, were one and the same line, and consequently no vacancy between. On enquiry at the Crown Lands Office, I found that the mistake had arisen from a Plan in that Office, exhibiting a vacancy, and that such Plan was a *Compilation* made by the late Surveyor General Sproule.

A grant having passed the Great Seal, for Land which does not exist, the parties interested have seized upon the lower end of the Reserve, and claim to occupy it under their grant. As this may lead to serious difficulty, the matter should be enquired into and adjusted speedily, as an act of justice to all parties.

I was requested to ascertain the feelings of the Indians with respect to a lease of the Mill Privilege at the foot of the Tobique Narrows. These Narrows commence about half a mile from the mouth of the Tobique; they are about three fourths of a mile in length, the River for that distance being hemmed in between lofty and nearly perpendicular cliffs of very good roofing Slate. In times of flood these Narrows present a serious obstruction to the navigation of the River, a great volume of water being forced with much violence through a crooked and confined passage.

Mr. — proposes to erect a Dam at the foot of the Narrows, which will flow back the water for some distance, thus checking the violence of the stream and rendering it navigable with ease and safety at all times. He also offers to construct a Lock for the passage of boats, and keep open a fish-way, to allow the thousands of Salmon which annually frequent this, their favorite River, to pass up to the usual spawning ground.

I brought this matter before the Indians at Tobique, in full Council, and found their sole objection to the establishment of Saw Mills at the Narrows was this—that the Salmon Fishery, on which they now mainly depend for support during the summer season, would thereby, sooner or later, be altogether destroyed. The Indian method of taking the salmon is altogether by the spear and torch, and it struck me that they prized much more highly the dash and excitement of the sport in taking the fish, than the profit arising from the sale of them. During my stay at the Tobique,

the day was spent by the Indians in almost listless idleness; but so soon as night fell, the torch was lit, the spear lifted, the canoe launched, and all became life, bustle and activity. The sport was pursued the whole night, and daylight exhibited heaps of glittering Salmon on the bank, and the Indians languidly creeping off to sleep away another day of total idleness.

The destruction of the Salmon Fishery would perhaps induce the Indians to adopt more settled habits of industry, and pay more attention to the cultivation of the soil than they do at present. The greatest objection to the erection of Saw Mills in their vicinity appears to me to be, the demoralization of both sexes from their intercourse with the loose characters too often found about such establishments, particularly in a remote district.

If a lease of the Mill Privilege of the Narrows is granted to Mr. —, I beg to suggest the following terms:—

The payment of a fair and reasonable rent, and (on public grounds) an obligation to improve and facilitate the navigation of the River, and to maintain a sufficient Fishway. A small portion of land only should be leased with the Mill Privilege, and no right or title whatever given to the quarries of roofing Slate, which I conceive to be valuable, and should therefore be expressly excepted. The use of nets below the Dam, a very common and destructive practice, should be strictly prohibited, under penalties.

From the Tobique I proceeded to Madawaska, and visited the Indian Settlement at the mouth of the Madawaska River, where I found only twenty seven souls.

These Indians occupy an exceedingly beautiful and very fertile piece of ground, and their crop appeared in a promising state. They cultivate the land upon shares with one of their French neighbours; each party finds half the seed; the Frenchman sows, reaps and delivers them half the crop, as also half the grass from their meadow, which he also cuts and makes into hay. They sowed this year ninety bushels of Wheat and Oats, and thirty bushels of Potatoes, besides Peas, Beans and Flax. They have also fifty bushels of Potatoes planted by individuals on their sole account, and their farm has a very respectable appearance.

The Captain of the Madawaska Settlement is named Louis Bernard, a very respectable industrious man, to whose sole exertions the prosperous state of the farm is to be attributed. He told me that he was upwards of fifty years of age; that he was born on the land, and that his father and grandfather were also born, lived, died, and were buried on this spot. That when he was a boy, the Indians had a very considerable Village here, the wigwams standing in regular streets near the water side; he pointed out to me the former site of their Village, and also the boundaries that were assigned to the Tribe when he was a youth. Their land commenced on the bank of the Saint John, at a small brook half a mile above the mouth of the Madawaska River, and extended down the Saint John one mile and a half, to a point of rocks jutting into the Stream, which point is now the boundary between the Indian land and the property of Alexander Albert.

Within this tract a grant was made some years ago to — on the East side of the Madawaska, of 200 acres. — purchased from an Indian who then resided on the land, a piece containing nine acres, which was marked out by stakes. Under color of this purchase, he succeeded in obtaining from the Crown a grant of 200 acres. Recently the Government had occasion to take possession of a portion of this grant, 400 yards square, on which to place a Block House and other Public Works, when — demanded fifteen hundred pounds damages, but was eventually induced, or rather compelled to take three hundred pounds in satisfaction of his claim.

That part of the Indian Reserve on the West side of the Madawaska, is now in possession of —, under a Licence of occupation, at a nominal rent. — makes no use of this land, and appears to hold it with the hope of eventually obtaining title to it, and for that purpose only. Some years before — obtained a Licence to occupy this land, Pierre Denis, an Indian, had cleared and cultivated a portion of the front, on which he had built a small house, and was living very comfortably. Denis refused to give up possession, and finally an order was passed that — should pay to Denis a certain sum for his house, which was appraised at fifty dollars, and on the promise of that sum being paid, Denis quitted the land in 1837, and yielded up possession to —.

I saw Pierre Denis at the Tobique; he is an old man, childless, and in poor circumstances.

On behalf of the Indians, I claim the land now held by — under the licence of occupation, and pray that he may be compelled to pay Pierre Denis the sum due by appraisal for his improvements, or else allow him to re-occupy them.

The total number of Milicete Indians now in this Province is four hundred and forty two, and in conclusion, I have to submit a few remarks on the Settlements recently visited.

The Indians at the Village near Fredericton have of late years become rather industrious; the women work early and late at the manufacture of baskets, while the men provide the materials, and also till the soil with their own hands. They do not follow the chase so ardently, or for so great a part of the season as they used to do, and they lead much more settled lives than formerly. Hence it may be inferred that this would be the most eligible place for the establishment of a School, and for making the attempt to civilize them. The Village is in a respectable neighbourhood, near the Seat of Government, and could always be kept under effectual supervision, and the immediate eye of the Executive.

Of the small Settlement at the Meductic, I regret that I have to state, that (with one or two exceptions) the men are drunkards, and the women debauched, while the children are naked and starving. I respectfully recommend that the valuable land they occupy should be leased for the benefit of the Tribe, and the Settlement broken up.

The Indians at Tobique subsist in a great measure by the chase, by occasional employment in lumbering, and in piloting rafts down the Tobique and the Saint John. They seem by no means inclined to continue labour, or the cultivation of the soil—yet, from the advantages of their situation, and the value of the Salmon Fishery, they have rather comfortable dwellings, and appear in easy circumstances as compared with others of the Tribe.

They appeared very anxious to have a Chapel, but by no means so anxious for a School; it will be matter for consideration hereafter, whether it would not be advisable to induce the Indians to leave this place, and settle at the Village near Fredericton. The ground they occupy is much wanted as the site of a Town, and would lease for a very considerable sum.

With respect to the Madawaska Settlement, I have to state that Louis Bernard and his family are respectable, and well conducted; the other men there devote themselves almost entirely to the chase, and whenever they obtain money, spend it in drink. I think it would be advisable to let Bernard occupy a portion of this land during his life, and lease the rest for the benefit of the Tribe.

I conceive I have stated enough to show the manner in which the Indian Reserves are trespassed upon, and are gradually frittering away, from the absence of superintendence and the want of authority in some person or persons to watch over and protect the rights of the unlettered people, who from their situation and utter ignorance of business, are peculiarly open to the schemes of designing persons. I refrain from offering any observations as to the general management of the Indian Lands, until I shall have visited the Micmac Settlements, as whatever measures are adopted, should apply equally to all.

From the best information I could obtain, I came to the conclusion, that if the Indian Lands on the Saint John were judiciously leased, and their numerous resources developed and rendered available, a Revenue might be derived from them sufficient not only to educate all the children of the Tribe, but also to feed and clothe them during the period of such education.

GENERAL RETURN OF INDIANS OF THE MILICETE TRIBE ON THE RIVER SAINT JOHN, 12TH AUGUST, 1841.

SETTLEMENTS.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At Saint John,.....	22	27	31	25	105
At the Village,.....	46	42	36	34	158
At Meductic,.....	5	6	9	9	29
At Tobique Point,.....	33	31	25	34	123
At Madawaska,.....	5	7	6	9	27
TOTALS,.....	111	113	107	111	442

EXTRACTS FROM MR. PERLEY'S REPORT ON THE MICMACS,

Dated 11th December, 1841.

Of the Micmac Indians, Mr. Perley reports :—

I obtained the names and numbers of the Indians at this Settlement, (Renous) amounting to 101 souls.

The Micmacs of this Settlement stated to me that with a little assistance they could make a very comfortable subsistence by fishing and tilling the land. They have all taken the total abstinence pledge; and I may here state generally, that all the Micmacs of New Brunswick have taken the same pledge, with the exception of those at Bathurst. Formerly they were generally intemperate, and much less industrious and cleanly than at present. The great improvement which has taken place in their character, conduct and appearance, since their adoption of the pledge and firm adherence to it, is really wonderful. It furnishes a brilliant example to those of higher standing, possessing greater information, and conceiving themselves superior in every respect to the unlettered and neglected Indian, who yet continue to wallow in the mire of intemperance. They may derive a profitable lesson from the Micmacs.

This great moral reformation has been effected principally by the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Egan of Miramichi, and his coadjutor Mr. Vereker, the Rev. Hector Drolet of Caraquet, the Rev. Mr. Paquet of Richibucto, and the Rev. Ferdinand Gauvreau of Dorchester, to each and all of whom the greatest credit is due for their untiring perseverance and zeal in the good cause. To these Rev. Gentlemen much praise is also due for their unremitting attention as well to the spiritual welfare as to the temporal interests of the Indians under their pastoral charge, for all which as yet they have not received any pecuniary compensation.

On the 27th August I arrived at Newcastle, where I was met by all the Chiefs and a number of other Indians, who expressed the greatest joy at my coming. A meeting was arranged for the following day, when we proceeded to Oxford Brook, where we met with a very cordial and flattering reception from a large number of Indians assembled there, including most of the Chiefs from the other Settlements. I explained to the meeting the object of my mission, and stated the wish of the Executive to render the lands reserved for their use available for their benefit; and the desire to improve their condition, by forming them into Settlements, establishing Schools, teaching the children to farm, and instructing them in trades. The announcement that the Executive was about to take some interest in their affairs, created great satisfaction, and caused much rejoicing.

I ascertained the number of souls at this Settlement (which is called the Eel Ground) to amount to 108. There is but one framed house here, which belongs to Louis Julien; the others live in wigwams, much scattered about. They planted this year 53 barrels of potatoes, 2½ bushels of wheat, and 17 bushels of oats; their crop looked very well, and promised a good yield. The men here chiefly employ themselves in getting lathwood, bark for tanning, treenails, and timber. Some work as Coopers, and make very good articles. The women make a variety of baskets, brooms and boxes for sale, and they sew very neatly. Upon the whole, this may be considered an industrious Settlement. In the winter they obtain from the River (through the ice) many bass, and great quantities of fine eels, of which they are exceedingly fond; whence the Settlement has its name.

On the 30th we proceeded up the North West Miramichi to Red Bank, at the mouth of the Little South West. Some families are settled at Red Bank, and some on the Reserve upon the opposite side; they amount to 50 souls.

Barnaby Julien resides at Red Bank, where he has a tolerable house and barn. He succeeded his brother Andre Julien as Chief of the Micmac Nation, and he obtained a Commission in regular form, under the hand and seal of His Excellency Sir Archibald Campbell, countersigned by the Provincial Secretary, dated 20th September, 1836, appointing him Chief of the Micmac Indians of Miramichi and its dependencies, and requiring them to obey him as their Chief. Under this Commission Barnaby Julien assumed the right of selling and leasing the greater part of the Reserve of 10,000 acres on the Little South West, and I regret to state, that from the best information I could obtain, he has since then received nearly two thousand pounds in money

money and goods from various persons, as consideration for deeds and leases, and for rents. His rent roll this year amounts to a very considerable sum; yet I found him so embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, that he dare not come into Newcastle, save on Sunday, for fear of being arrested by the Sheriff. His own family have alone benefitted by the money which came to his hands, none of the other Indians receiving the smallest portion. In consequence of this misconduct, the Micmacs, at their last annual meeting at Burnt Church Point, on Saint Anne's Day, (26th July) solemnly deposed Barnaby Julien from his situation as Head Chief, and declared that he had no further authority as such. Nicholas Julien, who was second in rank to his brother Barnaby, then became principal Chief of the Micmacs, but had been so short a time in authority before my visit, that he had not made any change in the management of affairs.

The Indians at this Settlement did not appear to be in a very flourishing condition, nor yet very industrious. Those on the North West were so crowded upon by Squatters, that they had only a few acres left for their own occupation. This, with the misconduct of Barnaby Julien, has rendered what ought to have been one of the best Settlements in the Province, one of the poorest.

Having examined the several Reserves on the North West and Little South West Miramichi, and visited all the Settlers upon them, as hereafter stated, we returned to Newcastle, and thence proceeded to Burnt Church Point, at the mouth of the Miramichi. Here I found 201 souls.

The Micmacs of Miramichi and its dependencies consider Burnt Church Point as their head quarters, and they assemble there annually on their Festival, Saint Anne's Day. Their Missionaries meet them at that time, and usually remain with them about a fortnight, when the members of the Tribe are examined in the articles of their faith, and those from remote places receive religious instruction. All disputes between individuals are settled, and all business of a public nature is transacted. Chiefs and Captains are elected or deposed, and all arrangements for the year are made before the meeting breaks up. At this period, also, marriages are usually solemnized, it being but seldom that weddings take place at any other season of the year. In general they marry at very early ages; males at 16 or 17, and females at 13 years of age. I saw several young Squaws, not fifteen years old, who had borne children.

The Reserve at Burnt Church Point contains 240 acres; the land is perfectly level, and is bounded to the Northward by a small River, on the North side of which there is another Reserve of 1400 acres, all in a state of wilderness. The small River furnishes Oysters, Lobsters, Sea Trout and Eels in abundance; in front of the Point large quantities of Salmon and Bass are caught annually, and there are plenty of water fowl.

On the Point formerly stood a French Village of considerable extent, and a large Chapel highly finished and ornamented, which is said to have cost five thousand louis d'ors. After the conquest of Quebec, a ship of war was despatched to England, bearing the Despatches, and the mortal remains of the gallant Wolfe. This ship, from stress of weather, put into Miramichi, and is said to have been the first British vessel which ever floated on its waters. Six men were sent on shore in a boat for water, all of whom were murdered by the Indians, immediately under the eye, as it was alleged, of some French soldiers stationed at French Fort Cove. In revenge for this outrage the Captain of the ship silenced the battery at French Fort Cove, destroyed a Settlement at Canadian Point, and on his way out burnt the Church at this place, whence it has since borne the name of Burnt Church Point. •

The Micmacs, assisted by two grants from the Legislature, have erected a neat Chapel here. It is 34 by 38 feet; the exterior is finished, the interior is plastered only, and without seats or gallery, which are much needed. There is a small new building attached to the Chapel, called a Presbytere, which was put up during the present season for the accommodation of the Missionaries. It is 22 by 25 feet, and contains two apartments, both finished with the exception of painting. All the work that has been done for the Chapel and Presbytere and the materials have been paid for by the Legislative grants and by subscription among the Indians, and their Treasurer has a balance of £7 17 7 in hand. They have prayers in the Chapel every morning and evening at 6 o'clock, at which there is always a full attendance. There

is a great deal of decorum at these meetings; the prayers are repeated by every person present, and the choir chaunt the morning and evening service in good style and very correctly; after which (in the evening) one of the Chiefs usually makes a short address or exhortation to the congregation.

There are at Burnt Church Point four framed houses and seventeen wigwams. The Indians there planted this season 56 barrels of Potatoes, with a few bushels of Oats and some Indian Corn. The crop looked well, but seemed likely to suffer from the drought. They have no cattle, but some of them keep pigs.

In the winter season this Settlement is entirely deserted, the inhabitants removing to the Tabusintac and other places, where they gain a subsistence by lumbering, and spearing Eels through the ice.

Several Councils were held at the Point, at which I endeavoured to ascertain the true sentiments of the Indians with respect to measures for ameliorating their condition. They appeared perfectly willing that their lands should be taken under the sole charge of the government, feeling quite certain that their great Mother the Queen would do what was right and just toward them. They appeared very desirous of having Schools established among them, and I observed among the men generally the greatest possible anxiety to learn reading and writing. Most of them know the Alphabet, can spell a little, and write their names.

It appeared to be a great object of ambition with every head of a family to possess a framed house, and advantage might be taken of this universal feeling to attract them to, and fix them at any particular spot, by merely lending them assistance to erect small dwellings. They seemed quite willing to become farmers, provided they had some person to superintend them and teach them in the first instance, and provided also they could raise enough from the land to support them. Of the latter, they always seemed to entertain great doubt, and not without some show of reason, for their misdirected efforts and hard labour in the cultivation of the soil have hitherto produced them but a very trifling return. If they were once convinced by actual experience that they could raise sufficient crop by tilling the land to support them throughout the year, they would immediately turn their attention to farming, and abandon their wandering habits. The proposition to teach them trades was received with the greatest satisfaction, both here and everywhere else, and from their great readiness in learning the use of tools, and well known aptness and skill, there is no doubt they would become excellent tradesmen.

Before we left Burnt Church Point, the Indians announced that they had in Council unanimously elected me their "Wunjeet Sagamow," or Head Chief, and also elected as Chiefs Captain O'Halloran and Lieutenant Rolland, second and third in rank.

The men of the Micmac nation almost invariably wear the English dress, without ornament, except on occasions of ceremony, when many of them appear in very showy garments of the fashion formerly peculiar to their people. The females, on the contrary, invariably wear the Indian dress, with a profusion of beads, ribbons, and silver or gilt ornaments, of which they are very fond.

From Burnt Church Point we proceeded up the coast in four canoes, and first visited the Tabusintac. No Indians reside near this River in the summer season, although there is a very large Reserve, of which I shall speak hereafter.

After examining this River and the Indian Land, we left for Pokemouche, where we arrived on the 10th September, and were received with much firing and great demonstrations of joy. Here we found 75 souls.

The piece of land heretofore granted for the use of the Pokemouche Indians, being occupied, under the circumstances mentioned in part second, the Indians received us on a piece of vacant Crown Land, hastily cleared of trees and underwood for the occasion. A large wigwam of birch bark had been erected for the exclusive use of my friends and myself, and we occupied it during our stay, finding it very convenient and comfortable.

The Micmacs here subsist during the summer season altogether by fishing and fowling; during the winter they obtain employment in the woods as lumbermen. They do not cultivate the soil, or live in houses, but wander about from place to place in pursuit of game, of which this part of the coast, being very thinly settled, affords great abundance and variety.

Some of the Micmacs here speak a little broken French, but very few of them speak any English, and from the want of intercourse with the white settlers they are but little acquainted with the manners and customs of civilized life. They adhere more closely to the ancient habits, forms and ceremonies of their forefathers, than any other of the Micmacs, and they gain their subsistence very nearly as their ancestors did before the settlement of the country.

Having examined this River, and made myself acquainted with all matters connected with the Indian Lands, we left for Shippegan, where we arrived on the 14th September. Captain O'Halloran being very unwell, proceeded from this place to Bathurst in a pilot boat, to obtain medical relief, and I did not again see him. Lieutenant Rolland and myself left on the morning of the 15th, in the canoes, to proceed up the Bay of Chaleur. In running through a small strait between Pocksoudie Island and the Main, called "*the Narrow Pass*," we observed a small Indian Settlement, and landed to examine it. We here found Pierre de Powmeville, (better known as Pierre Chiche, or little Peter.) The land they occupy belongs to the Crown. Pierre and his family settled on it about ten years since, and withdrawing almost entirely from intercourse with the rest of the tribe, they have, by steady industry, rendered themselves comparatively very comfortable.

They have about ten acres of land cleared, which is under good fence, and appears well cultivated. This season they cut about four tons of hay, which was neatly stacked; the potatoe field looked well, and the produce was estimated at 100 barrels. I noticed also, Indian Corn, with cabbages and other vegetables, more than sufficient for the use of the family. They own a cow, two heifers and some pigs, and have built a snug little house, to be occupied this winter. The exertions of this industrious family deserve particular notice, as affording an excellent example to the other Indians, and giving indication of what they might effect if aided by very moderate assistance and encouragement.

I learned subsequently that Pierre was very useful and very obliging as a ferryman, in passing travellers across Saint Simon's Inlet, a broad sheet of water which almost separates Shippegan from the main land. Pierre himself told me that he had not attended the annual meetings of the Micmacs for some years, being afraid to leave his place, even for a single day, as he was constantly threatened to be driven off by settlers in his vicinity, who coveted his improvements and sought every opportunity of dispossessing him. I promised to protect him, and also that I would intercede with His Excellency to grant him licence of occupation for a sufficient quantity of land to cover his improvements and enable him to extend them, which he appeared very anxious to do, and would have done before, but for the uncertainty attending his occupation. I most earnestly and respectfully request that His Excellency will be pleased to grant the required licence to Pierre de Powmeville and his family, to which they have strong claims from their industry and good conduct.

We proceeded along the coast to Caraquet, where we waited upon the Rev. Hector Drolet, who has pastoral charge of the Pokemouche Indians. We were most kindly and hospitably received by Monsieur Drolet, who gave us a variety of useful information, and appeared greatly pleased with the objects of the mission. From Caraquet we proceeded to Grand Aunce, and thence crossed the Bay of Chaleur to Paspebiac, in the District of Gaspé. Following the northern or Canada shore of the Bay, we arrived at Cascapédiac, where there is a Micmac Settlement, numbering 89 souls. They occupy a piece of land containing 416 acres, which was adjudicated to them by the Commissioners for settling titles to land in Gaspé. Very little of the land is cleared or cultivated, and the people appeared very poor. They bear the reputation of having been great drunkards and very debauched; but as most of them were this year induced to take the Pledge, it is to be hoped that their condition will improve.

The small number of children at this Settlement (only 28 to 61 adults) is very striking, and affords abundant proof of the irregular and dissipated life which these people have formerly led.

From Cascapédiac we proceeded to Tracadigash, where the Rev. Mr. Malloux resides. He has the Micmacs of Gaspé under his spiritual care, and he receives an annual allowance for his services from the Province of Canada.

We coasted the north shore of the Bay to Point Maguacha, which we rounded, and then

then entering the Restigouche, we ascended that River about twenty miles to Mission Point, on the Canada side, nearly opposite to Campbellton. This is a large Micmac Settlement, numbering 355 souls. These people have only 777 acres of land, with a reserve of 81 acres as a Chapel lot, on which there is a very ancient Chapel, and a tolerably comfortable house for the Missionary. A new Chapel of very large size is in progress, but will not be finished for some time, as the Indians are building it entirely by their own voluntary subscriptions. There are at the Mission thirty framed houses, and about the same number of wigwams.

My object in visiting the Indian Settlements in Gaspé was to ascertain how many of the Indians frequenting the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Chaleur belonged to Canada. It appeared to me, that by obtaining correct lists of the names of the several families, confusion would be avoided in the returns, and it would be easy to determine precisely how many Micmacs belong to this Province, for whom it would be necessary to make provision. In this I succeeded fully, though not without much trouble and great exercise of patience, but the information thus obtained will prevent difficulties hereafter.

D. C. Napier, Esquire, the Superintendent of Indian affairs, in answer to certain queries proposed by the Executive Council of Lower Canada, (dated 12th December, 1836,) stated that these Micmacs had not received any presents or other assistance from Government since Lord Alymer's visit to Gaspé in 1831, and that from their remote situation it was not practicable to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the value and extent of their improvements, or whether they derived their support wholly or in part from Agriculture. In a report made by a Committee of the same Executive Council to the Earl of Gosford, (dated 12th June, 1837,) it is stated that the Micmacs living at Restigouche and Gaspé amounted to 430 in number, and that they were among the most destitute Indians of Lower Canada. That considering the remoteness of their situation, and the consequent difficulty of exercising any superintendence or care over them, when so settled, the Committee recommended that, if practicable, they should be withdrawn altogether from that part of the country, and that lands should be allotted to them elsewhere, nearer to the capital.

Several of the Indians at this Settlement (Restigouche) cultivate the soil, but it is in a very rude and imperfect manner, and the produce they obtain is but trifling. They are generally able and active men, and principally depend for subsistence on the employment they obtain from persons getting Timber on the Restigouche; being excellent axemen and most useful men in the woods, they receive the highest rate of wages, and spend a large portion of the year in the forest. When the Timber is floated down the River in the Spring, they return to their homes for a time, accompanied by the white lumbermen with whom they have associated in the woods. The latter are in general a wild and lawless race, who, during their stay at the Settlements, and consequent relaxation from labour, very much resemble Sailors, allowed to go on shore for a short time after a long cruise, with abundance of prize money. At this period they receive the earnings of the preceding year, and they take up their quarters at the Indian Settlement, with their Micmac acquaintances and fellow lumbermen. The period which elapses ere they again return to their labours in the forest, is spent in drunkenness, riot and debauchery of every description. This annual saturnalia effectually prevents the improvement of the Settlement, and keeps the people in a vicious and degraded state. A considerable portion of the male Indians being absent much of the year, the women are left to follow their own devices, and to shift as they best can; consequently morality is at a low ebb among them.

The old people at the Mission struck me as possessing very little Indian blood, while the younger portion are so fair, as to raise a doubt whether they should be styled Indians at all,—rosy cheeks, blue and hazel eyes, and brown hair, are quite common among them, while each generation appears fairer than the preceding, so that in process of time, all the distinctive characteristics of the Indian race will be obliterated. At the present time, a large number of persons at this Settlement would readily pass as whites, they being only distinguished from their neighbours by the use of the Micmac language, and some peculiarity of dress. The Rev. Mr. Malloux came up to the Mission from his residence at Tracadigash during my stay, and being a person of superior learning and great intelligence, I obtained much valuable information from him. He spends
about

about one fourth of the year at the Mission, and exerts himself as much as possible to check the vices of the people; but the periodical visits of the lumbermen, and the outbreak which then takes place, in a great measure destroy his labours, and render his exertions fruitless. This year he has succeeded in inducing many of them to take the Total Abstinence Pledge, and I observed by his list that the number who had done so, amounted to 210. This is a very great point gained, and if all the people at the Mission, as well as at Cascapediac, can be induced to take the Pledge, then there may be some hope of bettering their morals and improving their condition.

The Micmac language, I was told by Mr. Malloux, is a dialect of the Huron. He says that the Micmac word "Sagamow," or Chief, is pure Japanese—the same word being now used to designate a Chief in Japan. Many other words in the language, he said, could be traced to the Chinese and Japanese languages; and he is fully impressed with the belief that the Indians of North America derive their origin from the Malays and other inhabitants of the coast and islands of the eastern part of Asia. He is confirmed in this belief from having heard in Canada well authenticated accounts of the remains of Chinese junks and other vessels similar to those in use on the Asiatic coast, having been found deeply imbedded in the sand, and on the banks of the rivers of the west coast of America, in northern latitudes, in a state of petrification; thus clearly demonstrating the means and the course by which the Malays and others first reached North America, and peopled it.

While at the Mission, the Chiefs requested me to meet them in Council, and I did so. They stated that the small quantity of land they held, subjected them to very great inconvenience, as they had not sufficient for cultivation, neither had they any firewood; that they had repeatedly applied for more land, without effect, and were now very desirous of being taken under the protection of the Province of New Brunswick, where they understood the Indians had plenty of land, and had their affairs better looked after than in Canada. I explained to them distinctly, that they could not be provided for in New Brunswick, that the lands in this Province had been expressly reserved for the Indians inhabiting it, and that it would be unfair, at this time, to introduce strangers to share with them. That they, at the Mission, had always adhered to the Government of Lower Canada, under whose laws they held their land, and from which they had at various times received presents and gratuities. That if they would give up their lands on the Restigouche, and remove nearer to Quebec, there was no doubt but they would receive more attention from the Government, and obtain some share of the sums annually voted by Parliament for the benefit of the Indians in Canada.

I recommended them to urge their claims upon the Canadian Government, and at their request, addressed a letter to the Superintendent of Indian affairs at Quebec, stating the object of my visit, communicating the numbers of the Indians, and on their behalf soliciting an answer to certain Petitions for land, which they had addressed to the Governor General.

Lieutenant Rolland's leave of absence having expired, he left me at the Mission, to return to his Regiment, and I proceeded alone down the River to Dalhousie, near which I met a number of Indians encamped on private property. I found that they all belonged either to Mission Point or Cascapediac, and that their residence near Dalhousie was only temporary, for greater advantages of fishing and shooting, obtaining a market for a few articles they manufacture, and establishing a claim upon that portion of the Provincial Grant for the relief of aged and indigent Indians, which is appropriated to the County of Restigouche. I cannot for a moment admit that they belong to this Province, as I learned from the Chiefs at the Mission, that their names had been furnished to the Superintendent at Quebec, and were borne upon his list, and that their great object in crossing the River, was to endeavour to obtain something from the Provincial Funds of New Brunswick, a claim they are not at all backward in urging.

There are three families who reside constantly on the Reserve at the mouth of Eel River, about five miles from Dalhousie, they number 12 souls. As they have for some time resided constantly within this Province, they may be considered as belonging to us, although they visit the Mission regularly, and are on the Quebec list as claimants for land in Canada. The Reserve at Eel River comprises 400 acres of land

land of no value for cultivation. The River affords abundance of the finest Eels, and at certain seasons it is the resort of great quantities of water fowl, particularly Wild Geese. There is a very valuable Salmon Fishery near the mouth of the River, and the Indians who reside there obtain a tolerable subsistence by fishing and fowling.

I next visited Bathurst, where I was led to believe the Indians were in considerable numbers, but on enumerating them I found only 27 souls. There are frequently a greater number of Indians at Bathurst, but these are generally visitors from Gaspé and the Restigouche, with some from Pokemouche. The list comprises all the regular residents on the Nepisiquit, and I regret to state that they have not yet taken the Pledge, and are a dirty, drunken, idle, worthless set, far more degraded in character, and more wretched in appearance than any of the Indians of New Brunswick. It was almost impossible to hold any communication with them, as they were generally in a state of intoxication, and very insolent and unreasonable. Only one of the Indians at this place, Prisque Wyoush, attempts the cultivation of the soil. He occupies a portion of the Reserve on the Nepisiquit, and this year cut a little Hay, but his Potatoes had failed entirely from the drought or want of care. The rest are outcasts and wanderers, who gain a miserable subsistence by fishing, and by any other employment they can obtain. I have communicated with the Rev. Mr. Egan of Miramichi, with respect to these people, they being within his district, although at a long distance from him. He informs me that it is his intention to send a delegation of the most prudent and sensible Indians of the River Miramichi, to invite the Indians at Bathurst to leave that place, and join the main body of the Micmacs at Miramichi. If the removal can be effected, he thinks that the force of example, as well as frequent admonitions, would induce them to relinquish their vicious habits, and lead a more moral life.

Unless the Indians at Bathurst can be induced to leave that place and join those at Miramichi, there will be little hope of their reformation, and it is an object of some importance to effect that removal as soon as possible.

From Bathurst I proceeded by land to Richibucto, and visited the Indian Reserve on that River, accompanied by the Rev. Joseph M. Paquet, the excellent Missionary of that district. I found, on enumerating the Indians frequenting the Richibucto, that they amounted to 188 souls, and it is highly gratifying to be able to report the steady industry and good conduct of these Micmacs, who are fast acquiring the orderly habits and stability of civilized life.

The Indian improvements on the Richibucto River are scattered along the front of the Reserve, from Big Cove up to the Molus River. Their clearings amount by estimation to 120 acres, on which they raised in the year 1840, 65 bushels of Wheat, 15 bushels of Barley, 2,350 barrels of Potatoes, and they cut 13 tons of Hay. Their crop this year will not fall short of that, although it suffered considerably from the drought. There are here five framed houses, the owners of which live very comfortably in the English style. The interior of the dwellings appeared very clean, and exhibited the usual furniture of a farm-house, while the cupboards made a very creditable display of delf, knives, forks, spoons and other articles appertaining to a well ordered household. The ceilings were garnished with ears of Indian Corn hung up to dry, and every thing about the houses, as well as in the wigwams, gave indication of a sufficiency of food, while the dresses of the people were of good quality, clean and comfortable.

A number of the Micmacs on this River have for some years past been employed as labourers by the merchants and others engaged in trade and lumbering, and particularly by John Jardine, Esquire, at whose deal wharves and ship yard they have hitherto had almost constant employment. Mr. Jardine informed me that he found them as useful and profitable men as any he could get; that they were very strong, as well as active, and would do far more work in a day than the ordinary run of labourers. The Indians so employed have acquired steady and regular habits of labour, from working regularly at fixed hours, and to the habits thus acquired, and the force of example upon the rest of their people, may be attributed their advances in civilization and the possession of superior comfort.

On the 7th October I met the Indians of this River in full Council, at which Noel John, the Chief at Buctouche, and several Indians from that River also attended. I explained to them the wishes of His Excellency with respect to the management of their

their lands, the establishment of Schools among them, and the improvement of their condition. The announcement was received with great satisfaction, and they professed their readiness to abide by the decision of the Government, *knowing that their great Mother the Queen would order what was right, and that their Father the Governor would see it faithfully executed.* They desired me to accept from them a confirmation of my election as Grand Chief at Burnt Church Point, and they presented a Commission and Wampum accordingly.

The Indians of Buctouche River amount in all to 93 souls. They have about 100 acres cleared; and last year they raised ten bushels of wheat, and 660 barrels of potatoes. There is only one house at their Settlement, that of Noel John, the Chief, who is a man of considerable intelligence and information, and owns some property. The Indians of this River attend more to fishing and fowling than their brethren of Richibucto, of whom they may be considered a part, as they attend annually with them at Richibucto Island on Saint Anne's Day, to celebrate the Micmac Festival, and regulate their affairs.

I presented to Noel John the Medal delivered to me for him by His Excellency.

I returned to Saint John by Buctouche, Shediac, the Bend, and Sussex Vale. On my way I met the Rev. Ferdinand Gauvreau, P. P. at Dorchester, who furnished me with a list of Indians under his pastoral charge at the Memramcook, amounting to 126 souls. The Reverend Gentleman stated to me that they occupied a piece of land containing 63 acres, purchased for them two years since with a sum of £30, granted for that purpose by the Provincial Legislature, which land had been conveyed to the Magistrates of the County of Westmorland, in trust. He also informed me that they had taken the pledge, and were consequently sober and industrious; that they did not cultivate the soil so much as they would do, if they had more land; that they owned boats, and fished in the Bay of Fundy, thereby making out a tolerable living; and that with a very little assistance they might be rendered quite independent in their circumstances.

I have since learned that there are a few Indians at the Aboushagan, a small River emptying into Shediac Harbour; and on enquiry I find that there is an Indian Reserve there, which was not mentioned in the Surveyor General's Return, and consequently did not come under my notice. Dr. Gesner, who recently visited the Aboushagan, states to me that he saw there three men, four women, two boys and three girls, in all 12 souls, whom I have included in the General Return. The Doctor also states that they do not cultivate the soil, but gain a livelihood by fishing and fowling.

The Return No. 2 hereunto annexed, furnishes a full statement of all the Micmacs of New Brunswick, amounting to 935 souls; to which if there be added the Milicetes, amounting by my Return of 12th August last to 442 souls, the whole Indian population of the Province will be found to amount to 1377 souls. The Micmacs frequenting Eel River and Dalhousie are not included in this grand total, they being enumerated among the Micmacs of Canada, whose numbers are given in the annexed Return, No. 3. The Return, No. 4, which follows, is a comparative statement of the number of adults and children at each Indian Settlement, from which it appears that the largest proportion of children exists at Memramcook, (Dorchester) where there are 75 children to 51 adults, from which a very favourable opinion of that Settlement may be drawn. The smallest number of children appears among the degraded Indians of Bathurst, where there are only 8 children among 19 adults. At Cascapediac, (in Gaspe) as I have before stated, there are only 28 children to 61 adults, a frightful decrease in numbers.

This is an appalling state of things, clearly demonstrating the rapid decrease of the Indian race among us, calling loudly for the interference of the Government in behalf of this unfortunate people, the survivors of the ancient possessors and lords of the country, who are fast yielding to the calamitous fate which so often befalls uncivilized man, when brought into contact with the natives of Europe or their descendants.

I learned on enquiry from many elderly people, who stated themselves to be childless, that they had had from 8 to 12 children each, who had died in infancy from measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, croop, typhus, smallpox, and a variety of other diseases to which children are subject. The infants are much exposed by the wandering

wandering habits of their parents, who rely almost entirely upon their own modes of treatment with roots and herbs, which are quite useless and ineffective in the majority of cases. During my visit to the Miramichi, the children were suffering dreadfully from dysentery; and while at Burnt Church Point, a death occurred almost daily. Being provided with medicines, I ventured to administer them, and as they gave relief in the first few cases, the Indians were emboldened to use my prescriptions freely, and the further progress of the disease was somewhat checked. Had a medical man accompanied me, I feel confident that, under Providence, many children who this year died of dysentery, might have been saved, or at all events had a chance for their lives.

Having in this and my preceding Reports, furnished complete lists of all the Indians of New Brunswick, designated their several Localities, and described their several circumstances, I now beg leave to offer some general remarks with respect to the best means of ameliorating their condition, and elevating them in the scale of society and civilization, a subject of grave importance in itself, involving obligations of a deep and enduring character.

The Indians of this Province are at present in an anomalous condition; they are among us, yet not of us; and it seems neither wise nor just to allow in our midst another race, to remain permanently inferior, a burden and misery to themselves, and a barrier to the general progress of the whole community. A late writer in Canada has very justly remarked, "that no plan of general improvement can be complete, unless it includes the means of elevating the Aboriginal Tribes to an equality with their white brethren in condition and character. If the scattered remains of the once proud and mighty possessors of the whole land are allowed to continue in a state of degradation or ruinous decay, a mountain of reproach will rest on those who have supplanted them as lords of the soil, without imparting any equivalent therefor—supplanting only to destroy, instead of to civilize and to save."

From a careful perusal of the correspondence relative to the Indians, which has of late years passed between the several Secretaries of State for the Colonies, and the Governors of Upper and Lower Canada, (published by order of the House of Commons,) and upon a due consideration of the doctrines therein laid down, I assume it to be a fixed principle of the British Government, that in all arrangements respecting the Aborigines, their concerns should be under the exclusive care and superintendance of the Crown, to which, whether under French or English dominion, they have ever been taught to look for paternal protection. The Sovereigns of Britain have always been accustomed to call and to treat the Indians of North America as their children; and in this there has been manifest justice as well as advantage to the Indian. His situation has been precisely that of an infant requiring a guardian.

The Indians of New Brunswick were first converted to christianity, and taught the principles of the Catholic Faith, by the Jesuit Missionaries, a class of men of whom it must be admitted, that whatever may have been their faults in the old world, they have in the new been known chiefly as the protectors and civilizers of a race, forsaken or trampled upon by all beside. When they baptized their converts, they conferred upon them names selected from the Calendar of Saints, and those names are yet borne very extensively among the Micmacs. The Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and other parts of the service of the Mass were taught by means of the hieroglyphics in use among the Indians themselves, which the Jesuit Fathers added to and improved. Manuscript books of the chants and church service, in these very curious symbolical characters, are still in common use among the Micmacs, who prize them highly, and part with them very unwillingly.

Since the Crown of England succeeded to the Jesuits, no advance has been made in the education or instruction of the Indians; but on the contrary, ground has been lost. A long period of neglect has elapsed, during which they have been left principally to their own unassisted efforts; yet in spite of these disadvantages the Indians have not failed to afford sufficient evidence in various instances of their capacity for the ordinary pursuits and arts of life, and of their readiness to enter upon them whenever they had opportunity or encouragement. They are far from being a degraded race; they possess all the higher attributes; their minds are strong, their imaginative powers highly fertile, and their morals, in their natural state, pure.

The

The first step towards the real improvement of the Indians is to gain them over from a wandering to a settled life, and to form them into compact Settlements, with a due portion of land for their cultivation and support. They must be induced to remain stationary on the land during the principal part of the year, without which they cannot attend to Agriculture, have any of the comforts or good habits of domestic life, or cultivate religion or education. To effect this, would not, in my opinion, be very difficult. The Indians have already, by their own unaided exertions, and their constant intercourse with the whites, made very considerable advances in civilization. Many of them have adopted the habits and customs, as well as the dress of Europeans; they have abandoned the wigwam, and built small dwelling houses for themselves, which they have furnished to the best of their ability with household goods; while in other respects they have conformed to the manners of the neighbouring settlers and farmers. The superior degree of comfort enjoyed by those who have made this improvement, has greatly stimulated the other Indians to imitate their example, and attain the same desirable position; it being quite certain, that one example of industry and consequent increase of property in a member of their own tribe, affords a far more effectual lesson to an Indian than a score of similar instances among the white settlers. Their strong desire to possess comfortable dwellings, and a piece of ground over which they may exercise the rights of absolute ownership, could be gratified without any very considerable expense, and by these means they might be attracted to any favourable situation, where they would soon feel and fully appreciate the blessings of social improvement and the numberless comforts of civilized life.

The next great object to be attained would be the establishment of Schools, affording elementary instruction not only in the common branches of education but in the rudiments of Agriculture and Mechanics. Infant Schools, which have been so universally successful elsewhere, would here be found of the greatest advantage; and I should place great reliance on their beneficial effects. If attended with a reasonable degree of success, it may not be too much to anticipate that they would lead to the perfect civilization of the rising generation of Indians, who being regularly trained and instructed from the earliest possible period, and associated in the Schools with the children of the whites, would grow up with all the habits, thoughts and feelings of the other inhabitants of the Province. They would, as a matter of course, learn to speak the English language perfectly, and thus all distinctions between the different races would be at an end.

The difficulty of inducing the parents to send their children to the Infant Schools, will be started as an objection to them; but I conceive that this difficulty may be overcome more readily than is generally imagined. A cheap uniform dress for the children would gain the consent of the mothers, who upon finding themselves relieved from the trouble of looking after them for a considerable portion of each day, would insist upon the attendance of the children as a relief to themselves.

It should be a condition with all Indians who were assisted to build a house, or receive aid and encouragement, that they should send their children to the Schools, and if they neglected or refused to do so, they should receive no further assistance, and be debarred from participating in the advantages of the Settlement. This would be a most effectual method of securing attendance at the Schools.

With respect to the adults and those young persons who have grown up, and may be considered to have acquired, in a great measure, the ancient habits of their race, the best possible means of inducing them to change their mode of life and receive instruction, would be by the introduction of teachers of the most simple and useful arts and trades, which, as I have already stated, the Indians express the most anxious desire to learn. A recent writer on India maintains, that instruction in the arts is far more likely to effect the intellectual improvement of an uncivilized people, than scholastic education; and he says it is an aphorism: "that an improved plough is an excellent missionary, and a chest of Carpenter's tools worth a dozen School masters," because the value of education, whether secular or religious, cannot be appreciated by the uneducated, unless its connexion with material improvement be distinctly shewn. He says that a perception of the vast benefits of knowledge in a material point of view, as well as the improvements effected by its agency, would in the natural course of things, introduce a higher order of civilization, and promote the cultivation of knowledge for its own sake.

The

The New England Company have established a Mechanics' Institute at the Mohawk Village, on the Grand River, in Upper Canada; a proof that they fully understand and appreciate the principles laid down.*

The situations in which to form Settlements of the Indians ought to be carefully selected, as it has been found in Canada, that location is a matter of very considerable importance in effecting permanent improvement, for a variety of reasons. The Indian should not be placed in a situation where he could not follow the sports of the field, as he cannot be expected all at once to change the whole habits of his life, and on the instant, give up hunting, fishing and fowling, which he has always followed without restriction, and to which he is ardently attached. The excitement of the sport is to him fascinating, and the greatest pride of his life is to return to his Wigwam successful. To attain this success, he patiently bears cold, hunger and fatigue to an extent which a white man could scarcely endure. He must at first be allowed to pursue fishing and fowling during some part of the season, and be gradually induced to give less time to them, and a greater portion to more profitable employment.

Mr. Jardine, of Richibucto, stated to me that the Indians in his employ would quit work at certain seasons, when the shooting and fishing were good, and absent themselves for several days together on sporting expeditions. He found it useless to object, and allowed them to follow the bent of their inclinations. When the sport was at an end, or they were satisfied, they returned immediately to their employment, and resumed work with a very cheerful and contented manner.

Another consideration with respect to Indian Settlements, is to place them so as to bring them near the Settlements of the whites, so that the children of both races may, if practicable, be associated in the Schools, and particularly in the Infant Schools, while at the same time the Indians may be benefited by the practical experience and example of the white settlers, and be so far removed from towns, as to prevent their intercourse with the idle and depraved as much as possible. To prevent the frightful mortality among the children, it will be absolutely necessary to have a medical man at each Settlement, or within such reasonable distance, that he could visit them frequently, and be within reach, if required on any sudden emergency. A small sum paid annually to a respectable physician for medicines and attendance, might save a great number of the Indians who now perish from the want of proper relief.

As favourable situations for Settlements, I beg to recommend the Indian Village of Saint Anne, (near Fredericton,) for the Micicetes of the Saint John; Burnt Church Point and the Eel Ground for the Indians of the Miramichi; and Big Cove for the Indians of the Richibucto. These places would suffice for a beginning, and as they possess the requisite facilities and advantages for Settlements, they would have every reasonable prospect of success, under efficient management.

As a preliminary measure with respect to the Micicetes, it is of the utmost importance that they should be induced to follow the excellent and honorable example of the Micmacs, in taking the Total Abstinence Pledge, and faithfully adhering to it. I trust that the Missionaries to the Micicetes, who alone receive an annual allowance from the Province, will have their attention drawn to the subject, and exert their influence to effect so desirable an object. If this can be achieved, they will be raised to a level with the Micmacs, and the same measures may then be adopted and applied to both people.

The government of the Indians requires moral considerations and elastic adaptations, and regard must be had, in the outset, to their natural habits and feelings, and their modes of transacting business. They should at all times be treated as Wards of the Sovereign, who possess property as Orphans who have peculiar claims upon the care and constant attention of the Government.

Upon the principle I have already laid down, that the affairs of the Indians should be under the immediate superintendence of the Executive, I respectfully recommend that title to the valuable lands now reserved for their use, do remain in the Crown, and that the management of them be entrusted to one or more Superintendents, who should

* The New England Company were incorporated by Royal Charter 7th February, 4th Charles II. They state that they maintain Missionaries, Schoolmasters, and Teachers of the most useful arts and trades, at the Company's expense, for civilizing, educating and instructing Heathen Nations of America in the Christian Religion, and also in such kinds of learning, and of arts and trades, as are suited to their condition. They profess to act in the execution of certain Trusts. They had formerly an establishment at Sussex Vale in this Province, which being mismanaged, was broken up about 1825.

should act under the direction of a Board of Commissioners, or of the Honorable Executive Council. The chief Superintendent should have in charge, the social and religious improvement of the Indians, and give attention to the multifarious matters of detail, connected with gathering and locating them, inducing them to adopt agricultural pursuits, and to send their children to the Schools. In a Report recently made on Indian affairs in Upper Canada, it is stated that such arrangements have been made as enables the chief Superintendent in that Province to attend fully to the *Statesman's* duties of his office, the extensive nature of which, and their importance to the good government and progressive civilization of the Indians, are clearly shewn, instead of confining himself exclusively to those duties which may be equally well performed by a Clerk.

With regard to the Lands, I feel assured that the Indians would be much better pleased that their Great Mother the Queen should retain the Title in Trust, than that they should be granted to Trustees, of whom they would always be suspicious. They have the most perfect confidence in the Government, and would never rest satisfied if their lands were intrusted to private individuals, however strictly the trust might be guarded.

I will not swell this part of my Report by entering into matters of detail, but shall be ready to enter upon them at any time hereafter. In conclusion, I beg to express my firm belief, that with the exercise of a sound discretion and under proper and careful supervision, the Indians of New Brunswick may be gradually lead to adopt Agricultural pursuits and acquire habits of settled industry. That instructed by masters of competent knowledge, and of strictly moral and religious character, they would readily acquire every species of useful information, and that thus the remnant of an ill-fated race, daily and yearly fading before the progress of civilization, would be preserved from utter annihilation, and in process of time become useful and respectable members of society.

No. 2.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIANS OF THE MICMAC NATION WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK 1ST OCTOBER, 1841.

Name of the Settlement.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Renous Settlement,.....	11	15	10	7	43
The Eel Ground,.....	28	32	20	28	108
Red Bank,.....	14	12	12	12	50
Burnt Church Point,.....	51	58	46	46	201
Pokemonche,.....	21	17	11	26	75
Pocksoudie,.....	2	3	1	6	12
Bathurst,.....	9	10	4	4	27
Richibucto,.....	48	53	46	41	188
Buctouche,.....	20	22	19	32	93
Dorchester,.....	22	29	44	31	126
Aboushagan,.....	3	4	2	3	12
TOTALS,.....	229	255	215	236	935

No. 3.

RETURN OF THAT PART OF THE MICMAC NATION RESIDENT IN CANADA, 1ST OCTOBER, 1841.

Name of the Settlement.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Cascapedia,.....	33	28	12	16	89
Mission Point,.....	107	114	75	59	355
TOTALS,.....	140	142	87	75	444

No. 4.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN THE MICMAC NATION, 1ST OCTOBER, 1841.

Settlement.	Adults.	Children.
Renous Settlement, - - - - -	26	17
The Eel Ground, - - - - -	60	48
Red Bank, - - - - -	26	24
Burnt Church Point, - - - - -	109	92
Pokemouche, - - - - -	38	37
Pocksoudie, - - - - -	5	7
Bathurst, - - - - -	19	8
Richibucto, - - - - -	101	87
Buctouche, - - - - -	42	51
Dorchester, - - - - -	51	75
Aboushagan, - - - - -	7	5
In New Brunswick, - - - - -	484	451
Cascapedia, Canada, - - - - -	61	28
Mission Point, ditto, - - - - -	221	134
TOTAL, - - - - -	766	613

EXTRACTS FROM THE SECOND PART OF THE REPORT OF MR PERLEY, COMMISSIONER FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS, UPON THE MICMACS AND THE LANDS RESERVED FOR THEIR USE.

Saint John, 18th December, 1841.

SIR,—I now have the honor of submitting for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the second part of my Report, which relates to the several Tracts of Land reserved for the use of the Micmac Indians, and the various trespassers thereon, with observations on the Petitions which have been specially referred to me.

The Eel Ground.

The first Tract which I visited was the Reserve on the North West Miramichi at Oxford's Brook, called by the Indians "the Eel Ground." This Tract is triangular in shape, with an extensive water front, and extends back Northerly, gradually diminishing to a point. It is generally a light soil based on the Sandstones of the Coal measures, and very level. It is estimated to contain 3033 acres, from which all the valuable timber has been stripped long since. Finding that there were a number of trespassers upon it, I visited their various houses and farms, accompanied by Captain O'Halloran and Lieutenant Rolland, and at each place gave notice to quit, at the same time leaving copies of His Excellency's Proclamations relative to trespassers on Indian Lands.

* * * * *

The Reserve at Indian Point.

The next Reserve which I visited is on the North side of the North West Miramichi, at the head of the tide, about 13 miles from Newcastle. It is also triangular in shape, with a very long front on the River, and contains by estimation 750 acres; it is called Indian Point or Indian Town. The land is of very good quality, rising moderately and regularly from the water, and from its position at the head of the tide is of considerable value, and a very desirable situation for settlers. Possessing such advantages, it is not at all surprising that it has been pounced upon by Squatters, by whom it is almost exclusively occupied, the Indians having only three acres in front, which are under strong picket fence, to prevent further encroachment. The dwellings of these Squatters are in general of the humblest description, very dirty and with scarcely any furniture. The land appeared to be cultivated in a very slovenly and careless manner; the people had the bullying swagger and reckless air of persons who had obtained property illegally, and were committing daily violations of the law, not knowing at what moment they might be called to account for their misdeeds. The children appeared neglected in every respect; the doubtful and uncertain position of the squatter seeming to blunt his feelings, and render him regardless of the unchristian and immoral manner in which too many of the children are growing up.

This

This is a state of things which should not be suffered to exist in a civilized community; for the evil conduct and example of these people have a most pernicious effect on the families of the lawful settlers in their vicinity. The real Squatter never seems to prosper in his affairs; the knowledge that he is beyond the pale of the law, and the cloud of uncertainty which hangs over him, keep him always in a restless and feverish state, and paralyze his best efforts. From his position he is not entitled to nor can he obtain credit from the Merchant or his neighbours. Being thus without character or credit, he is always steeped to the lips in poverty, and wears out a miserable existence in unavailing struggles, till death relieves him from his misery, when his destitute family are cast upon the world by no means fitted to become good members of Society.

* * * * *

Reserve on the Little South West Miramichi.

This tract contains by estimation 10,000 acres, the whole of which is good land and very favourably situated. It is unequally divided by the Little South West, the smaller portion being on the North side of that River, and the larger portion to the southward. The latter portion is again subdivided by the highway which leads from the North West Miramichi up to the head of the Little South West. From being thus divided into three parts, it possesses great facilities for laying out Farms with fronts on the Road and on the River, which will render them very easy of access. I examined the whole of this extensive Reserve, accompanied by Lieutenant Rolland, and we visited nearly every one of the numerous settlers upon it, delivering them copies of the Proclamation and examining their improvements, a work of no small labour and fatigue. We were mounted upon horses belonging to the Indians, two of whom accompanied us as guides. The horses being accustomed to the woods, carried us through the River repeatedly, as we had to cross it many times, and they also carried us over and through every sort of obstruction and difficulty without any accident.

This is the tract over which Barnaby Julien has for some years past exercised sole control, selling and leasing nearly the whole of it, and squandering the money, as stated in the first part of this Report. There are a great number of persons on this Reserve, under lease, and paying rent regularly, who have made extensive and valuable improvements. They have in general conceived that if theirs was not a legal title, yet still it gave them a good and equitable claim upon the Government, and that any improvements they might make would be secured to them. They are in general far above the squatters on the last mentioned Tract both in character and circumstances. It was not a little curious to contrast these persons, who supposed they had fair title, with those who had not a shadow of claim, and to mark the difference between the lawless squatter and the honest industrious settler. The superior air and manner of the latter, the greater degree of comfort in their houses, and the respectable appearance of their families, were evident proofs of the advantages of living in obedience to the Laws, and of the great moral and social superiority of those who did so, over those who were leading a lawless life.

Red Bank.

The Reserve commences at Red Bank, at the mouth of the Little South West. It is a high bank of red sand and loam, (whence its name) round which the Little South West sweeps into the North West Miramichi with considerable rapidity. The rise and fall of tide at "Red Bank" is from three to five feet, and the North West is navigable to the Point for vessels of considerable burthen. On gaining the top of the Bank we found a very pretty flat or *plateau*, on which stand the premises of Barnaby Julien, and a neat little Chapel, quite new, and almost completely finished. A part of the plateau was in grain and potatoes, belonging to Barnaby; the rest was a waste, on which were the wigwams of the few other Indian residents at this very pretty spot.

Barnaby expressed much anxiety to have this place secured to himself and his family, but it is by far too valuable for that. Its admirable position and manifest advantages point it out most clearly as a highly favourable situation for a Town or Village, which at the confluence of two extensive Rivers, and at the head of the tide, would seem to be clearly needed, and by all means advisable. All persons appeared

to agree in the opinion that no better spot could be selected, and I strongly recommend that "Red Bank" be reserved for a Village, and be laid out into suitable lots.

* * * * *

The Settlers on the Little South West have in general a great deal too much land, and the quantity should be reduced. Several of them have from three to four hundred acres; yet not satisfied, they are grasping at more, and striving by every means in their power to extend their boundaries. A general survey of this Reserve will be required, and a proper division and allotment of the land must be made before many of the questions arising among the several Petitioners can be fairly determined.

Reserve on the North West Mirumichi.

From the Little South West, Lieutenant Rolland and myself proceeded up the North West to examine the extensive Reserve on the East side of that River. This tract commences a short distance above Wild Cat Brook, having a front on the River of about four and a half miles, and extending back from three to four miles. It contains by estimation eight thousand seven hundred acres. Much of this tract is "burnt land," it having been swept over by the Great Fire of October, 1825, which not only destroyed all the vegetable matter on the surface, but actually calcined the sand and gravel to such an extent as to leave the land almost incapable of bearing any thing but blueberries. The greater portion of the lower part of this Reserve presents a most barren and desolate appearance; on the upper part there is some growing timber, and there the soil is of very fair quality.

* * * * *

The Scryggle Meadows.

Opposite the Reserve upon the North West, at the mouth of the Great Sevogle, there are two small Islands, and a tract of Meadow Land of about 60 acres. Some years since this Meadow and the Islands were allotted to a branch of the Julien Tribe, who were furnished with a plan of the same by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, on which such allotment was stated.

* * * * *

Reserves at Burnt Church Point.

The two Reserves at Burnt Church Point have already been mentioned in the first part of this Report. The reserve at the Point, containing 240 acres, is in the exclusive occupation of the Indians. The other reserve on the North side of Burnt Church River, containing 1400 acres, is in a wilderness state; the growth appeared rather small, consisting chiefly of trees of the fir tribe. The cleared land adjoining the reserve looked very well and appeared to produce good crops. There are no trespassers on this reserve, but to prevent disputes the boundaries ought to be defined, for which purpose a survey is needed.

* * * * *

Reserve on the Tabusintac River.

The great Reserve on this River commences about seven miles from the mouth of the Harbour and extends five miles up stream, on both sides, with a breadth of three miles, thus forming an oblong of five by three miles; it contains by estimation nine thousand acres. The greater portion of this reserve appears by the plan to be on the North side of the River. It is all very fine land; the soil is in general heavier than what is usually found on this coast, and is admirable for tillage. The tide flows for some distance above the upper line of the reserve, every part of which is therefore accessible from the sea for all fishing vessels and small craft, which can enter from the Gulf into the harbour of Tabusintac. It is much to be regretted that so fine a tract of land, stretching along the tideway, possessing two River fronts, should so long have been allowed to remain in a state of wilderness, forming a complete barrier to the Settlement of the Country about it. The Road from Miramichi to Bathurst crosses the Tabusintac by a Bridge about thirty five miles from the sea. Timber is said to have been procured thirty miles further up above the Bridge, and thence floated down to the harbour. The land on the Tabusintac is generally of very good quality, particularly from the Bridge down to the reserve, yet there is not a single settler upon it, although there are few Rivers in the Province which offer greater advantages or hold

out stronger inducements to Settlers. If this reserve were divided into small allotments and offered for settlement on liberal terms, it would at once lead to the settlement of the whole River, and in due course of the adjoining Country.

* * * * *

Wishart's Point.

At this place, which was formerly called M'Gray's Point, there is a Reserve of ten acres. It is near the mouth of the River Tabusintac, and is now in possession of William Wishart, who has it all in good cultivation, and under fence. The Indians said Wishart's house stood on their land; this was denied, but can easily be determined by survey. Wishart expressed his readiness to give up this tract whenever it was called for, after he got off his crop. He has never paid rent.

Ferry Point.

At this Point, which is below Wishart's, and still nearer to the sea, there is a Reserve of twenty five acres now unoccupied. It is a capital place for shooting wild-fowl, and would make an excellent fishing station, as Cod and other fish abound at a short distance from it to seaward. Lobsters and Oysters are here abundant, and of very good quality. Haddock were so plentiful that the Indians speared them from the canoes in passing along the coast. We obtained Cod from a fishing boat, receiving two good fish for every fig of tobacco we could furnish.

Reserve on Pokemouche River.

This Reserve is on the South side of the River, and begins about seven miles from the sea, at the Wagan-chiche (Little Knife) Brook, and extends from thence up stream three miles, with a depth of about a mile and a half. It contains by estimation, two thousand six hundred acres, the whole of which appears to be of very fair quality, and fit for cultivation.

* * * * *

Reserve on the River Nepisiguit.

This Reserve is to contain one thousand acres on both sides the Nepisiguit, between the Pabineau and "the Strong Waters." It was defined by a minute of Council in April last, and is under survey by Mr. M'Neil, Deputy Land Surveyor, who had not completed the work when I left Bathurst in October. The land was said to be of very inferior quality, and the only part of it fit for cultivation, was the piece occupied by Prisque Wyoush, who made some attempts at farming. I had not an opportunity of visiting this reserve, owing to the very boisterous weather and heavy rain during my stay at Bathurst. There are no trespassers upon it. I was told that the timber had been cut off long since.

Reserve at Eel River, Restigouche.

I have already mentioned this reserve in the first part of this Report, as being unfit for cultivation. It appeared very low land, covered with scrubby spruce and fir trees. It is estimated at 400 acres, and is only valuable as a station for fishing and fowling. It is altogether in a wilderness state.

Reserve on the Richibucto River.

This Reserve is on the North side of the Richibucto, along which it extends for several miles; it contains by estimation 4600 acres. Several grants have been made within the original boundaries of this reserve, which cut it up very much. It is all exceedingly good land, rising gradually from the water with easy swell, having a southern aspect. Being beautifully indented with coves and intersected by the Molus River and two Creeks, it offers every facility of access from the water. The River is wide in front of the reserve, and the tide flows eight or ten miles above it. The Indian clearings extend some distance along the front.

* * * * *

Reserve on the Buctouche River.

This Reserve is on the North side of the Buctouche River, and contains by estimation 3500 acres. The land is considered of the very finest quality, in a very favorable situation.

* * * * * Reserve

Reserve at the Aboushagan.

This Reserve not being upon my list, I was not aware of it when in its vicinity, and did not visit it. So far as I have been able to ascertain, its chief value consists in the facilities it affords for fishing and fowling.

My Report upon the Indian Lands on the eastern coast, and the Squatters thereon, being brought to a close, I would briefly remark, that it is quite clear from all that has been stated that prompt and energetic measures are required to remedy the many evils which have already resulted from the unauthorized occupation of the Indian lands, and to prevent the further spread of the mischief. Surveys of the boundaries of the several tracts are much needed, when the land could, at the same time, be fairly and properly divided into lots for settlers, giving each a sufficient quantity of land, with a due allowance of water or other front.

It will also be clearly seen from this part of my Report, that the Indian reserves are capable of yielding and may be made to yield a very considerable revenue for the benefit and improvement of the Indians; and that the sooner they are placed under efficient superintendence and management, the better it will be for the interests of the Province.

LAST PART OF MR. PERLEY'S REPORT UPON THE MICMAC INDIANS.

Saint John, 20th January, 1842.

SIR,—I now have the honor of submitting for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the third and last part of my Report upon the Micmac Indians and their affairs, consisting of information relative to the country passed over on my recent mission to that people.

Commencing with the River Petitcodiac in the County of Westmorland, I have to state that there is a very fine tract of land, fit for settlement, between the Coverdale River (a branch of the Petitcodiac) and the Shepody Settlement, said to comprise about 30,000 acres, covered with hardwood timber, and well watered. It was represented to me that this tract offered very favorable prospects to settlers.

Between the "Bend of Petitcodiac" and the River Richibucto, a Road was laid out some years since by Captain Maclauchlan, and a large extent of country in the vicinity of it was surveyed into lots of 100 acres each. But a small number of these lots have as yet been taken up, and there is here an excellent opening for a large number of emigrants to settle in bodies, the land being laid off into Townships, and being very easy of access. Vessels of considerable burthen can proceed to "the Bend," where the Road commences; and the other end of the same Road is also accessible to vessels of equal size by the Richibucto. The head waters of the Cocagne, the Buctouche, and the Shediac, are within this line of country, and a large portion could be reached without any difficulty from the harbours at the mouth of those Rivers, which would also afford convenient outlets for agricultural produce. The land is stated to be of very good quality, thickly covered with a mixed growth of timber, among which Ash and large Birch predominate, and it certainly possesses many advantages with respect to situation.

I cannot pass over this part of the country without adverting to the proposed Canal for connecting the waters of the Bay of Fundy with those of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, two routes for which have been proposed—the one from Cumberland Basin to the Bay Verte, and the other from Memramcook to Shediac Harbour. It is stated that the length of the Canal in either case would not exceed fifteen miles, through a very level country, offering no serious obstacles to the undertaking. With respect to the Bay Verte, it appears in evidence, that at low water it is nearly dry for about two miles, except in the channel, which has only four feet at the mouth of the River, and on the bar at low water, and that the rise and fall of tide is seven and a half feet. The Bay Verte, from the shallowness and crookedness of the channel, can only be approached by vessels of small size, and is difficult to get in or out of, with particular winds. Shediac Harbour on the contrary, is represented as easily accessible from the Gulf, with sufficient depth of water for vessels of large size, with good anchorage, and safe shelter. These statements are supported by recent surveys of the

the Harbour of Shediac, made by the Messieurs Milne, two very intelligent pilots residing there, who have taken the soundings with much care and precision.

It cannot for a moment be doubted that the completion of this Canal would be of the greatest possible importance to New Brunswick, by opening the extensive and valuable Fisheries of the Gulf and the Labrador Coast, by giving a ready means of communication between the whole Eastern coast of the Province and Saint John, without the tedious and dangerous voyage around Nova Scotia,—and by developing new branches of trade and business from the intercourse with Prince Edward Island, the Bay of Chaleur, the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and Canada. Should large bodies of Emigrants arrive in New Brunswick, the Canal would furnish them with employment until they became acquainted with the country, and could make arrangements for settling upon the vast tracts of fertile land, yet unoccupied, upon the Eastern side of the Province;—thus internal improvement and the settlement of the country would go on simultaneously, with advantage to each other.

Passing along the eastern coast from Shediac northward, the next harbour is that of Cocagne, at the mouth of the River of that name. The entrance of this harbour is a mile in width; in ordinary tides, there is about nine feet on the bar at low water, and fourteen feet at high water—there is two or three feet more at spring tides. Within the harbour there is good anchorage in five fathoms water. I noticed a number of fishing vessels riding safely in a very violent gale. The Cocagne River is about thirty miles in length, and is but thinly settled, although the land on its borders is very good. Buctouche Harbour is at the mouth of the Great and Little Buctouche Rivers; the entrance to it, between two low sand beaches, is narrow. At low water there is nine feet on the bar, and at high water about fourteen feet. Within the bar there is a safe harbour with good anchorage in four fathoms water. Several square-rigged vessels load here annually for Britain with timber and deals; and the largest ship ever launched in New Brunswick, (about 1500 tons) was built on the Great Buctouche, up which the tide flows about thirteen miles. The land on this River is a deep rich loam, exceedingly fertile, and covered with large-sized and valuable timber. The Great Buctouche is about forty miles in length; the Little Buctouche about thirty five miles. On the latter River there is but little timber; the excellence of the soil is testified by several very fine farms. The Settlements on these Rivers extend only to the head of the tide; the inhabitants are principally French, who pursue agriculture almost exclusively, and appear in comfortable circumstances.

Twenty miles north of Buctouche is the Harbour of Richibucto, the entrance to which is rather narrow, between sand beaches. There is about twelve feet on the bar at low water, and seventeen feet at high water. The Harbour is safe and commodious; the River is navigable for vessels of large size upwards of 15 miles, the channel for that distance being from four to six fathoms in depth. At the head of navigation for large vessels, the Road to Petitcodiac commences. The tide flows up the River 25 miles; the banks on either side rise moderately from the water, presenting easy slopes. The soil is very fair, but not quite so good as that on the Buctouche, being more sandy. The River is but thinly settled as far as the head of the tide, above which the whole country is in a state of wilderness. A new Road was opened two years since from the Richibucto to the head of the Grand Lake, intersecting the Great Road recently opened from Fredericton to the Bend of Petitcodiac. By that route I passed over this line of country in 1837, and found the land very level, and well adapted for settlement. The line for a Rail Road from the head of navigation on the Grand Lake to the head of navigation on the Richibucto, was surveyed about six years since, and the plan of survey was lithographed at my expense; some copies of this plan are herewith sent for His Excellency's acceptance.

The Richibucto has five tributaries—the Saint Nicholas and the Mill Branch on the South side—and the Aldoine, the Molus and the Bass Rivers, on the North side, upon each of which there is much vacant land fit for settlement. The Molus River falls into the Richibucto near the centre of the Indian Reserve, and adds much to the value of that tract by the facility of access which it affords. The land on the Molus is particularly good, and is covered with beech, birch and maple of large size.

Next in order is the Kouchibouguacis, a small River said to have its rise in a Lake about fifty miles from its mouth. This River is broad but shallow, the banks are low and

and very level, the tide flows up about twelve miles, to which distance the Settlements extend. The soil is a dark rich loam well adapted for tillage, and produces good crops. The fishery at the mouth of this River is valuable; lobsters are so abundant, that they are used for manuring the land.

About six miles from the mouth of the Kouchibouguacis the Kouchibouguac enters the Gulf. The tide flows up this River seven miles to the bridge on the great North Road, close to which there is an extensive and valuable Mill Establishment. The Kouchibouguac is about fifty miles long; it is tolerably settled from the Gulf to the Bridge, above which there are but few inhabitants. Two miles below the Bridge is the extensive and very convenient Ship Yard of Messrs. J. Cunard and Company, where a number of large vessels have been built of late years. There were two Brigs on the stocks nearly ready for launching at the time of my visit in October last. The channel of the River sweeps in close to the Ship Yard, and is of sufficient depth for vessels of 500 tons. Square Timber and Logs have been "driven" down this River forty miles from its mouth. The Country on both sides the River is thickly covered with White and Red Pine, Cedar, Birch and Maple. That excellent and rapidly growing species of Timber the Larch (or Hacmatack) is found on this River in very extensive groves, and of large size. It has been much used in Ship building at this place, for which it is in great request, as vessels built with it bear a high character and bring a better price.

Salmon and Alewives are caught at the mouth of this River in considerable quantities, and close to the entrance of the Harbour there is an excellent Cod and Mackerel fishery.

The banks of the Kouchibouguac above the Mills are almost wholly ungranted; the soil is good, and from all I could learn, it appears that this River possesses several advantages for the formation of Settlements which would enjoy many privileges. There is now the beginning of a Village where the Great Road crosses this River; and were the Country in the rear settled, it would soon spring into a Town, receiving support from, and conferring benefits upon the Settlements in its vicinity. I would particularly recommend this River to His Excellency's notice.

The Road from Kouchibouguac to Chatham crosses three small Rivers—the Baie des Vents, Black River, and Napan River, on all which there is much good land yet in a wilderness state, where Settlements might be formed with advantage.

The Miramichi is too well known to require any particular notice at my hands, and I therefore pass it over. The coast to the northward is precisely similar to that to the southward of it, being generally low land, with long islets, or rather sand bars, in front, thrown up by storms, between which and the main land are a series of well sheltered lagoons, perfectly secure and admirably adapted for boat navigation at all times. Through these sand bars the Rivers force their way by narrow passages, which are commonly called "Gullies;" these frequently fill up and shift their position, from violent gales and heavy seas, as well as from great freshets in the Rivers themselves. Outside the sand bars there is good fishing every where, from Escuminac to Miscou, which might be carried on more extensively than at present, and would prove a source of wealth to the Province.

The Tabusintac is the principal River on this part of the coast; in the second part of this Report I have described the admirable quality of the land on its banks, which it is surprising should so long have been suffered to remain ungranted.

There is about eight feet water on the bar at the mouth of the Tabusintac at ordinary tides, and about three feet more at spring tides. Alewives are caught in the River every Spring in considerable numbers, and Salmon in August and September. Herrings are in some seasons caught in large quantities at an Island between the mouth of the Tabusintac and Neguac. There are said to be abundance of Fall Herring and Mackerel off this coast every season, but not many are caught, owing to the fishermen not being properly fitted out for taking them.

It was stated to me that there was an admirable line of Country for settlement, all ungranted land, from Burnt Church River to the Tabusintac, (in the rear of the Neguac Villages,) and thence northerly across the Great and Little Tracadu Rivers, the different Branches of the Pokemouche, to the Caraquet River on the Bay of Chaleur. This part of the Province is altogether in a wilderness state, without Roads

or Bridges, and at present is only accessible by the Coast and the Rivers which intersect it. A number of large Settlements might be formed within this extensive tract of Country, which would have peculiar advantages from their proximity to the Sea and River Fisheries and to the Coast. The only Road in this portion of New Brunswick is that by the coast from the Miramichi to Bathurst, very nearly 100 miles, which in many places is but a bridle path. It was a general subject of complaint with the inhabitants, that very little money had been granted by the Legislature for the improvement of this Road, and none for the opening of several new lines which are much needed by the present settlers, and which if laid out and worked, would lead to the settlement of the vacant land almost immediately. Many persons on the coast expressed to me their anxious desire to become settlers in the interior; but, said they, we are deterred from settling; there being no Road by which they could reach the land they wished to occupy, or by which they could communicate with the settlers on the coast. The formation of Settlements in this part of the Province would greatly encourage the Fisheries, and lead to their being more vigorously and extensively prosecuted, while the farmers would be benefited by having the fishermen as consumers; agriculture and the fisheries would thus assist and promote each other.

Between Fokemouche and Caraget, at the entrance into the Bay of Chaleur, is the spacious Port of Shippegan, which is formed by Shippegan and Pocksoudie Islands and the Main Land. It comprises three large and commodious harbours—first, the great inlet of Amacque, the depth of water into which is from five to six fathoms; second, the extensive and well sheltered sheet of water called “Saint Simon’s Inlet,”* the channel leading into which is one mile in width, with seven fathoms water from side to side; and third, the middle channel between Shippegan Island and the Main Land, which runs through from the Bay of Chaleur to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The entrance into this channel from the Gulf is by Shippegan Gully, which will not admit vessels drawing more than seven feet, that being the depth of water on the bar; but the principal entrance from the Bay has not less than five fathoms on the bar, inside which, within the Harbour, there is six and seven fathoms up to usual loading place, from whence to the Gully there is about three fathoms only. Vessels within the Harbour of Shippegan have good anchorage, are quite safe with every wind, and can load in the strongest gale—the rise and fall of tide is about seven feet.

The soil of Shippegan is well adapted for farming pursuits; where the land has been properly cultivated, the farmers have at all times had profitable returns. The inhabitants are chiefly French, who, of late years, have improved their farms very much. The settlement of Shippegan contains about seven hundred souls.

The Islands of Shippegan and Miscou are said to be of little value for settlement, being much cut up with lakes and barrens. But the shores of these Islands seem formed by nature for the prosecution of the fisheries, the numerous creeks and coves affording safe and convenient harbours for boats and schooners during the fishing season, as well as admirable positions for fishing establishments. As yet this branch of business may be considered in its infancy at this place, no attempts having hitherto been made to carry it on upon a large scale. The inexhaustible source of wealth which the bounty of Providence has provided upon this coast, will always furnish the means of obtaining a livelihood, and thousands of people may here with energy and industry secure to themselves comfort and independence. The fisheries will ever be productive of wealth, will furnish a most important article of commerce, and give constant employment to any extent of population. If properly protected and encouraged, they will eventually become one of the greatest and most lasting sources of Provincial prosperity.

The Caplin fishery at Point Miscou generally commences the first of June and ends the first of July. The average take of cod and other fish by the inhabitants of Caraget, Shippegan, and the fishermen who come over from Gaspe, during the season, is not less than from fifteen to twenty thousand quintals annually, exclusive of what may be taken by the numerous American fishing vessels on this part of the coast.

The

* This Inlet derives its name from a French Corvette, called the Saint Simon, which was sunk there after the conquest of Canada.

The exports of fish and lumber from Shippegan have quadrupled within the last four years. The export of fish during the past season of 1841 to Spain, and coastwise, for home consumption, amounted to ten thousand quintals, valued at £8,000 currency. The export of Timber, Deals, Lathwood, and hardwood for shipbuilding, during the same period, amounted to £7,000, making a total of exports from this out-port of £15,000 for the past year.

Messrs. Cunard and Company of Miramichi, have a trading and fishing establishment at Shippegan, but all the rest of the business is carried on by Merchants from the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. At Caraquet, where the inhabitants all follow fishing more or less, the business is entirely in the hands of the Agents of Messieurs Robin and Company, and Le Boutillier Brothers, both Jersey houses, who have extensive fishing establishments in Gaspe. The house of Robin and Company is extremely wealthy; their riches have been amassed by a steady pursuit of the fisheries only. The late Charles Robin, the founder of the firm, commenced the business on the shores of Gaspe about 1780, since which it has been carried on by the house, with greater or less profit, up to the present time.

The settlers on the Pokemouche River are chiefly Irish, who do not engage in the fisheries, but follow lumbering and farming. The harbour of Pokemouche will not admit the entry of any craft larger than boats, owing to the shallowness of the water on the bar, but the River abounds with Bass, Trout and Eels at all times, and Salmon and Gaspereaux in their season. The farmers on the Pokemouche have every year a considerable surplus of produce for sale, but from the want of a Road to Shippegan, they are in a great measure cut off from market, being obliged to bring their produce round by the shores of the Gulf, with much risk and at great expense, which the articles will not bear. Were Roads opened and Settlements formed in this district, the Port of Shippegan would rise rapidly into importance; the fisheries would be prosecuted more vigorously, and a Town would spring up, in what is now a pathless wilderness. That splendid sheet of water Saint Simon's Inlet, wherein a Navy might find a safe and fitting haven, whose shores are yet wooded to the very beach, and whose waters are only disturbed by the Micmac Canoes and flocks of wild fowl, would then become the seat of business, and be animated by the spirit of enterprize and activity. Tall masted ships would displace the frail canoe, and fleets of fishing boats would float in numbers equal to the wild fowl, while hundreds of human beings would gain a comfortable subsistence on a spot which does not now support a single soul.

The settlement of Caraquet extends along the sea side for ten or twelve miles, and contains a population of about two thousand souls, nearly all French, who are settled closely together. The lands fronting on the water only, are granted; those in the rear are yet vacant, the French being always unwilling to quit the water side. The farms are in general small, owing to the frequent subdivision among families. The soil appears light, but it produces very good crops. Through this Settlement there is a good carriage Road, and about the centre of the Settlement there is a large stone Chapel well finished and handsomely decorated, built entirely by the voluntary subscriptions of the people; the view from it over the Bay and River of Caraquet is exceedingly fine. A number of vessels load every season in Caraquet Harbor with Oysters for the Quebec market; every Cove sends forth daily its fleet of fishing boats during the season, and I was told that it was not an uncommon sight to see one hundred boats starting together out of one Cove, of a morning, for the fishing ground. The Caraquet River is similar in character to the Tabusintac and Pokemouche Rivers, and possesses equal advantages for settlement. There is from four to five fathoms water in the channel which leads into Caraquet Harbour.

I did not visit the Settlements between Caraquet and Bathurst, which, although but recently formed, are already in a very flourishing condition. The Settlers are chiefly from Ireland, and they attend exclusively to agriculture; by unremitting industry and good management they have succeeded in raising themselves from poverty to a comfortable, and comparatively independent situation.

The New Bandon Settlement was formed by a party of Emigrants from Bandon, in the County of Cork, and the success which has attended their labours, is a convincing proof (if any were wanting) of the advantages which flow from the formation of compact Settlements, or little communities, where every man cheers, assists and encourages

encourages his neighbour—where combined efforts overcome with ease, obstacles and difficulties which are quite insurmountable to the solitary Settler, who is depressed and disheartened by his very loneliness.

The Bay of Chaleur may be considered an immense haven, with many excellent harbours; its length is said to be ninety miles,—in breadth it varies from fifteen to thirty miles, yet in all this great extent of length and breadth, *there is neither Rock, Reef or Shoal*, and no impediment whatever to navigation. The land on the South or New Brunswick side of the Bay, is low, and the rocks are altogether grey sandstone; the water deepens gradually from the shore, at a short distance from which the fishing is excellent. On the North shore or Gaspé side, the coast is bold and precipitous, rising into eminences which may almost claim to be called mountains. The scenery along the whole of the Gaspé shore is striking and picturesque in the highest degree. High cliffs of sand stone, almost blood-red in colour, border the sea in several places for miles together, intersected occasionally by deep and rugged ravines, through which the mountain torrents seem to force their way, and down which they come foaming and roaring until they finally leap into the tide.

On the summit of the cliffs there is a *pluteau* of good land, generally in cultivation, but beyond this narrow border, all is wilderness and desolation. The land rises at first gently, but afterwards abruptly into a long range of lofty hills, whose elevated summits are wooded to the very top. The outline of these hills, when seen from a distance, is peculiarly fine. When I saw them in September, owing to the long continued and excessive drought, the woods were on fire in all directions, and the "Gaspé mountains" at night presented a very singular spectacle. The fire at times appeared to climb up the steep hill sides, with slow and stealthy pace, licking up every combustible in its way—then it would rush up to the mountain's brow like a whirlwind, throwing up huge jets of glowing flame, and immense volumes of dense smoke, sparkling with thousands of burning brands, carried aloft and tossed wildly about by strong currents of air, created by the heat and rarefaction of the atmosphere. Coasting the shore at this time, on a dark, but calm night, the hills appeared to be active volcanoes, as grove after grove of lofty trees, burst into masses of flame, then gradually died away into darkness, and after smouldering for a time, again broke forth with renewed vigor, as the raging fire reached fresh materials for combustion.

In crossing the Bay from Grand Ance to Paspébiac, a distance of twenty one miles, I saw a great number of whales, many of them of large size. On reaching Paspébiac, we were told that a Schooner had been fitted out there for whaling, and had but recently returned after a short cruise, having taken eight of the black or right whale. At this place I visited the fishing establishments of Robin and Company, and Le Boutillier Brothers, which for extent, convenience, and perfect fitting up, are said to be unequalled. The water on the Gaspé shore being deep and the bottom rocky, the fishing is not good. The Gaspé boats therefore cross to the shore of this Province, near which the best fishing ground is found. Although our own people have the fishing thus at their very door, they do not prosecute it with the same vigor or assiduity as the Canadians, who no doubt are encouraged and stimulated by the extensive and well conducted establishments on their coast.

The Restigouche, which separates us from Canada, falls into the head of the Bay of Chaleur, and is one of the noblest Rivers in this part of America. At its entrance into the Bay at Dalhousie it is three miles in width, and from thence to Campbellton, a distance of twenty miles, it maintains a great breadth, and may be considered for the whole distance one magnificent harbour, fitted for ships of the largest class. I beg to refer to the plan of this River, copied from the best and only authentic survey, which I have already submitted to His Excellency.

Opposite Campbellton, the Metis or Kempt Road strikes off for Quebec by the Matapédiac and Metis Rivers. From Campbellton to Fredericton, by the present circuitous route, the distance is about 230 miles; while in a direct line across the country, the distance is little more than 100 miles. The necessity for a Great Road from Fredericton to the Restigouche is daily becoming more pressing. The advantages of such a Road would consist in the establishment of a direct and easy communication between the Seat of Government and a valuable portion of the Province rising rapidly into importance, from the excellence of its Harbours, the magnitude of its

its Rivers, and the variety and extent of its resources—in opening for settlement a very large tract of country at present inaccessible for that or any other purpose—in forming a junction with the Great Metis Road to Quebec, an object of much importance in many points of view—and in placing Fredericton, and the upper part of the Saint John, in immediate connection with the Fisheries on the Northern and Eastern Coast.

If Bodies or Associations of Emigrants of a superior class, possessing some capital, could by any means be induced to settle on the Restigouche, they would find a profitable field for their labours, and they would greatly increase the prosperity of the Province by the development of the resources of that part of the country. The mineral wealth of the Restigouche is very great, but as that River will probably be visited next year by the Provincial Geologist, I but barely allude to the importance and value of its resources in that respect.

In concluding this Report, I beg leave respectfully to offer for His Excellency's consideration, some observations on the best means of advancing the real interests of New Brunswick, and promoting its prosperity.

Lord Durham has beautifully described the wild lands of the Colonies of Great Britain, as the natural heritage of her unemployed poor. He styles them the rightful patrimony of the English people, the ample appanage which God and Nature have set aside in the New World for those whose lot has assigned them but insufficient portions in the Old.

Steam Navigation has so far reduced the distance between England and this Colony, that it is almost as easily reached as the remoter parts of the United Kingdom, and it must soon attract a greater share of public attention on the other side of the Atlantic. We now only require *labour* and *capital* to open up our country, and bring forth its latent capabilities and hidden resources. A well regulated emigration of persons of all classes from the United Kingdom, where there is not only a superabundance of labouring population, but where each department of every trade and profession is overstocked, would give prosperity to England by converting thousands of the unemployed and destitute into the happy and independent cultivators of a fertile soil, who would become in this country the well paying customers for the manufactures of their native land.

A considerable immediate outlay is required for executing the greater and lesser works of communication and improvement throughout New Brunswick, in an effectual and permanent manner, after which they may be kept in repair at a comparatively trifling expense. A small portion of our annual revenue would suffice to maintain Roads when once well made, but the whole of our revenue for several years would be required for the original construction of such Roads. The construction of great public works, *by loan*, would materially accelerate the physical prosperity of the Province. The beneficial effect of the loan system would be two-fold—it would call into operation individual capital and enterprise, and it would give distant capitalists an immediate interest in the welfare of the country. By anticipating the revenue in this manner, an impetus would at once be given to the Colony, of which it is impossible to exaggerate the beneficial results. The *unemployed* capital of England would furnish work for her *unemployed* labourers on the *unemployed* lands of New Brunswick, for the purpose of giving a value to that, which without such combination, would continue valueless.

The observations of Lord Durham with respect to the capabilities and advantages of the North American Colonies generally, are specially applicable to New Brunswick. It possesses great natural resources for the maintenance of large and flourishing communities. An almost boundless range of the richest soil still remains unsettled, and may be rendered available for the purposes of agriculture. The wealth of vast forests of the best timber, and of extensive regions of the most valuable minerals, yet remain untouched. Along the whole line of sea-coast, around each Island, and in every River, are to be found the greatest and richest Fisheries in the world. The best fuel and the most abundant water power are available for the coarser manufactures, for which a market may always be found. Trade with other countries is favoured by the possession of a large number of safe and commodious Harbours; long, deep and numerous Rivers supply the means of easy intercourse; the structure of the country generally,

generally, affords the utmost facility for every species of communication by land. Unbounded materials of agricultural, commercial and manufacturing industry are present; and with wise and energetic measures, these elements of wealth and special advantages may at once be turned to profitable account. A long career of prosperity will open upon us; a large and flourishing population will fill the country; and a Province now viewed as a mere wilderness, will become one of the fairest and richest portions of British Colonial Empire.

(Signed)

M. H. PERLEY.

LETTERS FROM A. READE, ESQUIRE, TO MR. PERLEY.

Government House, Fredericton, 16th June, 1841.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to convey to you His Excellency's thanks for your Report and suggestions for improving the condition of the Indians.

His Excellency desires me to state that he concurs with you in the objections entertained to the system of making presents to them, at least so far as the adults are concerned, and that he is convinced of the necessity of securing to them their lands, of preventing encroachments, and securing to them all the advantages to be derived from their permanent possession.

The Lieutenant Governor considers that it will be a primary object to provide for the education of the children, males and females, and more especially of the very young, so that settled habits of order, industry and morals may be early implanted, and that to effect this, nothing will be more conducive than the establishment of Infant Schools. As these Institutions have not been hitherto introduced, excepting at Saint John and Fredericton, the Lieutenant Governor thinks it would be advisable to form them in situations convenient for the Indians, but not to the exclusion of other children in the neighbourhood of their Settlements, as it is not desirable to bring up their children as an exclusive class or caste, but rather to blend them with others, who ought also to be taught to regard the Indians as their fellow christians and fellow subjects.

Teachers have been sent out to the West Indies, who have formed Training Schools in which the children of every Christian denomination are now receiving religious and general instruction; and His Excellency thinks that Schools on this plan may be formed, the introduction of which would have the immediate effect of arresting the mortality amongst the Indian children, by inducing the Indians to leave their children at the Settlements while they travel about the Province, or go on hunting expeditions, a proposal which some of them have already expressed their readiness to adopt.

His Excellency approves of the distribution of Seed Corn and Potatoes for planting, and will be prepared, to the extent of the grant, to reimburse any advances which as Commissioner you may have made on this account, and which may be required for the relief of the aged and infirm, but for this object it would be necessary to state to His Excellency the precise amount you may require.

The formation of a School of Industry, on the plan of the School now in operation at Norwood, for the London Parishes, would be very desirable, but its object should not be confined exclusively to the Indians.

Having understood, during his recent visit to Woodstock, that it would be inconvenient to the Indians at Tobique to come down to the Village near Fredericton to meet you as one of their Chiefs, His Excellency directs me to suggest that you should either meet them at Woodstock or visit the Settlements on the Saint John's in succession.

I have to add that the Lieutenant Governor will be glad to confer with you on these interesting subjects whenever you visit Fredericton.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

Fredericton, N. B. 19th June, 1841.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 16th June, I am directed to request, that in stating to His Excellency the precise amount required for the Indians, and which you

you estimated at £15, you would accompany that statement with the particular return of the Indians in whose behalf the money is to be expended, shewing their number and location, and the general object to which the money is to be applied.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

A. READE.

Moses H. Perley, Esq. Commissioner Indian Affairs.

Fredericton, N. B. 23d June, 1841.

SIR,—I am to acknowledge your letter of the 20th instant, and to state that His Excellency approves of the plan you have in contemplation of visiting the various Settlements of the Indians in succession, and is desirous that you should put yourself in communication with the other Commissioners for Indian Affairs in the different parts of the Province, and visit their outlying Settlements, and he will be prepared to recommend the reimbursement of any moderate charges incurred by you for travelling expenses.

The Lieutenant Governor thinks it may be desirable to point out to the Indians that it is in contemplation to open Schools in situations convenient to their Settlements, and to allot them Lands in those situations for their subsistence. Also to establish Loan Funds, whereby they and others will be enabled to obtain the means of providing themselves with root houses, and seeds and agricultural implements—which loans will be repaid by small instalments—that the object being to admit them to a participation in all the advantages conferred on their fellow subjects, the descendants of Englishmen, they will have the same opportunities of acquiring wealth, and their children the same means of acquiring the knowledge which will raise their condition.

I am directed further to inform you, that besides the allotment of lands for their individual occupation, it is contemplated to protect their interests in what are commonly called the 'Indian Reserves;' and as the product of those lands in Timber, &c. will be held for their benefit generally, it is not desirable that the Indians should enter into separate engagements with individuals for the right of occupancy or of lumbering—in which it is to be feared that advantages are not unfrequently taken of them by improper persons, to the serious prejudice of the whole; under this plan, each person or family having lands for themselves, will have the free disposal of their own allotment, and a general interest in the remainder, and the funds arising therefrom will be applied to objects for the benefit of themselves and their children.

A Plan of the Tobique Lands has been ordered, and will be transmitted to you as soon as prepared.

I have, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

Fredericton, N. B. 8th September, 1841.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 4th instant, with inclosures reporting for the information of the Lieutenant Governor, the proceedings of yourself, Messieurs O'Halloran and Rolland, in your visit to the Indian Tribes and their Reserves in the vicinity of Miramichi, and having laid the same before the Lieutenant Governor, I am directed to apprise you of the satisfaction His Excellency has derived from the effect of your exertions, and to express his acknowledgements for the co-operation rendered you by Captain O'Halloran and Lieutenant Rolland. The translation of the Lord's Prayer by the former officer, is very interesting, and the Lieutenant Governor is gratified to learn that it is his intention to make further translations from the Scriptures and especially from the Gospels, in the Micmac language; and if Captain O'Halloran would forward copies of these translations, the Lieutenant Governor will direct their publication for the use of the Indians.

I am directed further to signify to you His Excellency's approval of the manner in which the Timber seized by you has been disposed of, and to request that a detailed and separate Report may be made in regard to the Lands and Squatters on them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

A. READE.

Moses H. Perley, Esquire, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, &c. &c. &c.

Fredericton, N. B. 22d December, 1841.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge, by direction of the Lieutenant Governor, your letter of the 11th instant, containing a Report of the state of the Indians, their Lands, &c. founded on your observations, during your recent visit to their Settlements in this Province.

The Lieutenant Governor has perused with much interest the details therein communicated, and views them as an evidence of the zeal and intelligence which you have evinced for the preservation and progressive improvement of the remnant of this unfortunate race, the aborigines of the country, who possess qualities which cannot fail to second any well directed effort with a view to reclaim them; individual examples have already come under His Excellency's observation which confirm the hope of success he has been led to entertain.

Reserving the important matters which you propose to take up in your subsequent Report, His Excellency directs me to express to you his entire concurrence in the views you entertain, that while the extensive and valuable tracts of Land occupied by the Indians, continue to be held by the Crown in trust, for their benefit, and which might be more advantageously administered than at present; Village Settlements should be formed where the Indians may acquire allotments in their own right; where without any abrupt interference with their habits, they may be instructed in those arts by which they may acquire their subsistence and improve their condition.

Adverting to the mortality, especially amongst the children, by which their aggregate numbers have of late years been progressively reduced—a consequence of their unsettled habits, and their ignorance of the treatment of the disorders which so frequently prove fatal, it will be very desirable that provision should be made for the regular attendance of Medical Practitioners at their Settlements.

The formation of Infant Schools will be a means of rescuing the young from the habits of unsettled life, and as a means of practically reclaiming the Adults, their association in such Schools with the children of the white inhabitants would be very desirable, affording as it would an opportunity of imparting to them the habits congenial to an improved social condition; and His Excellency hopes that these objects may be accomplished through the influence of those who have acquired the confidence of the Indians.

Appreciating the importance of the recent adoption of the pledge of temperance amongst the Micmac Indians, the Lieutenant Governor would be glad to find that this salutary check to the destructive effects of inebriety had been introduced amongst the other Tribes in the Province.

As it is His Excellency's intention to recur to these topics, on receiving your further Reports, it only remains for me now to offer you his acknowledgments for the valuable information you have already communicated.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esquire, Commissioner Indian Affairs.

Fredericton, N. B. December 31, 1841.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge your Report dated the 18th instant, with your subsequent letter of the 28th, on the Reserved Lands of the Micmac Indians, and the various petitions received from the persons, who under arrangements made with the Indians, or without their consent, have settled or encroached on them.

His Excellency directs me to assure you that he is strongly impressed with a sense of the zeal and intelligence with which you have discharged the arduous service you undertook, and which he regards as alike creditable to your humanity and public spirit.

Your Report, which contains details of great value, has been referred to the Surveyor General, and will be brought under the consideration of the Executive Council, at their meeting on the 5th January, with a view to the adoption of prompt measures for the settlement of the Reserves, when the claims of those persons whom you have recommended for the favourable consideration of the Government, will receive every attention consistent with the rights and interests of the Indians, for whom the lands have been specially reserved by the Crown.

His Excellency is gratified to learn, that you are directing your attention to the introduction of habits of temperance amongst the Millicete Indians, which have been so laudably adopted by the Micmacs.

The Lieutenant Governor thinks that the Indians may, with advantage, participate in the public employment upon the Roads.

I have, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPTAIN O'HALLORAN.

Burnt Church Point, 7th September, 1841.

Understanding from Mr. Perley that the introduction of the Scriptures amongst the Aborigines of New Brunswick was one of the objects connected with his present Mission, I have applied myself assiduously during our visit to the several Settlements, to the study of the Micmac language; with what success, Your Excellency may form some judgment from the translation of the "Lord's Prayer," which I forwarded some days since from Newcastle, and of which I now transmit to Your Excellency a corrected version, inscribed in the proper Micmac character. If Your Excellency thinks that my humble efforts are of any avail in the promotion of the object referred to, I beg to state that I am willing, on my return from the Restigouche, to revisit Burnt Church. The Indians are delighted and grateful for the instructions in reading and writing which I have already bestowed upon them; and as they are a very intelligent race, and most desirous to learn, I hope to realize my anticipations of being in some degree instrumental in the improvement of their moral condition.

My printed version of the "Lord's Prayer" has been put into the hands of about fifty Indians, some of whom can read it tolerably well.

EXTRACT FROM A REPORT FROM CAPTAIN O'HALLORAN.

Newcastle, Miramichi, 27th September, 1841.

From the enquiries I have made as to the source from whence the Micmac Indians derived their first knowledge of an alphabet, I am led to the opinion that they owe their instruction to the Jesuits, who came to this Province amongst the early French Settlers. I shall endeavour to embody in my Journal all that I can collect of a derivative, traditional or useful nature relative to the Micmac Indians. There is much in their cast of countenance, to wit, the broad high cheek bones, straight black hair, and almost total absence of beard, and also in their marked predilection for the sea coast, which would favor the opinion that they are of Malay origin; on the other hand, the Malays exhibit a striking contrast to the Aborigines of this coast, in the lowness of their stature, and especially in their disposition, which is notoriously treacherous and revengeful, whereas that of the Micmacs appears to be social, confiding and grateful; and these physical and moral discrepancies can only be accounted for by attributing them to the free admixture of late years of Micmac with European blood.

There are only a few Indians at Bathurst, and they are not in point of intelligence at all to be compared to those with whom I had previous intercourse. The only thing in the way of translation which I have lately achieved, has been Mr. Perley's Commission and my own and Mr. Rolland's, as Chiefs of the Micmac Nation. We were elected at a Grand Council of the Nation held at Burnt Church on the 7th instant, in token of the gratitude felt by these poor Aborigines for our exertions in their behalf.

EXTRACT OF A REPORT UPON THE STATE AND CONDITION OF THE INDIANS RESIDING AT AND FREQUENTING EEL RIVER AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE, BY MR. A. BARBERIE.

Dalhousie, October 8, 1841.

Having been appointed by Your Excellency's Predecessor a Commissioner to superintend the affairs of the Indians in the County of Gloucester, in conjunction with

Thomas

Thomas M. Deblois, Esquire, of Bathurst, previous to the division of Gloucester, the Act of Assembly constituting the County of Restigouche, became Law almost immediately after the above appointment. Mr. Deblois and myself however have continued to act under the appointment, each taking for his supervision the immediate County in which he resides, and dividing the annual grant equally between the two Counties, or according to circumstances and the more immediate wants of each. I have therefore deemed it most proper to report separately, and to furnish my Returns for Your Excellency's information accordingly.

In obedience to Your Excellency's desire, signified through a Circular received from the Honorable William F. Odell, I have obtained a return of the number of Indian Families comprised within the County of Restigouche, specifying the men and women, and the children of both sexes. The peculiar situation of this County, from its proximity to the Mission, as it is called, situate on the Canada side of the Restigouche River, about twenty miles from the Eel River Reserve, and where from three to four hundred Indians are located, the Chiefs of which Tribe exercise jurisdiction over the Indians of this County;—this circumstance, coupled with the wandering habits of the Indians themselves, renders it a most difficult matter for me to distinguish who are really inhabitants, or such as may be said permanently to reside in this County. In detecting many who have thus imposed upon our limited means, I have been greatly assisted by the activity and skill of M. H. Perley, Esquire, who recently visited this quarter by Your Excellency's directions.

There is a Reserve for the Indians situate at the mouth of Eel River, about three miles from Dalhousie, the Shire Town of this County, (originally, I believe, 400 acres,) of about from 150 to 200 acres, where some three or four families of the Indians constantly reside; and at the shooting and fishing seasons numbers resort thither from the Mission on the Canada side as before described. The land reserved at Eel River is of little or no use for cultivation, consisting almost entirely of a low morass or swampy nature, or what is commonly called Carriboo plains; the River itself is but a small stream, branching or forking about two or three miles from the mouth, the tide flowing perhaps two miles up the River, and forming near its confluence with the Bay de Chaleur, a wide basin of shallow water, covering a soft muddy bottom, affording the best ground for eel fishing in this part of the Province, and for the same space is probably not equalled in any part of the world; these fish furnish a most valuable and delicious article of food for the Indians, are taken at all seasons of the year, and in great abundance, and by the sale of what they do not require, often supplies them with other necessaries. It is also a resort of codfish in the Winter, the Indians killing these fish with spears through holes cut in the ice at or near the River mouth. Trout, smelt, and numerous flat fish are also taken in great abundance; few or no salmon are taken there, the mouth of the River being very much exposed to easterly winds, raises a sea too heavy to hold salmon nets, and the River too shallow for these fish to ascend any distance up. It is a great resort for wild geese, brant, and various water fowl in the Spring and Autumn. The land, as I have already described, is of no value for cultivation; the only valuable part, as formerly understood by the Indians as forming part of the Reserve, comprehends a large tract of Marsh Land, at the head of the tide, but which has been long since granted to private individuals. One Squatter having located himself upon their ground near the mouth of the River, was immediately warned off by me, and since his removal, I have not heard of any trespass whatever being committed on their Reserve. They complain indeed of some of the French population encroaching upon their eel ground, and fishing their fish, but the River being (as I humbly conceive) free to all Her Majesty's subjects, I informed them that I could not compel those people to desist from such practice, but that I would report the subject of their complaint to Your Excellency.

Several Indian children have attended Parish Schools in this County, and can read and write the English language, and we have one boy entered at the Grammar School at Dalhousie, (free.) His father, who appears to be of respectable standing amongst the Tribe, is most anxious that his son should receive a liberal education; the boy (about twelve years of age) manifests a great degree of cleverness, and is most anxious to learn; he can now read and write well, has made some proficiency in arithmetic, and is commencing with the Latin Grammar.

In appropriating the funds committed to my care for the relief and support of these people, I have been as frugal as possible, and have confined the distribution principally to such as were in actual want, visiting their camps personally, and attending in the first place to the wants of the sick, the aged, infirm and destitute, occasionally rewarding honesty, merit and industry with small donations. The balance in my hands of £13 7s. remaining of the grant of the current year, (£30) I shall be obliged to expend so soon as the cold weather sets in, as many are destitute of comfortable clothing, particularly some old people on my list, and several children. The almost general failure of the Potatoe crop in this part of the Province will cause the approaching Winter to be one of unusual want and distress with the Indians. All those I had supplied with seed potatoes last Spring have had their plantings destroyed by fires, and this calamity is not confined to the Indians alone, but very many of our settlers have had their Grain and Potatoe crops destroyed in like manner, as from the unprecedented dryness of the season the fires were burning in all parts of the Country.

As to the habits of the Indians they are generally speaking by no means active or industrious, and it has long been a matter of doubt with me, from my own observation, whether affording them support even to a limited extent does not rather tend to confirm those habits of idleness and indolence to which they are naturally predisposed. I find it the case as far as my own experience goes, that the more you give them the more they require and expect. They are never satisfied, and they imbibe the idea that Government will support them, consequently they are careless to hunt and provide for themselves. Having come to this conclusion, from the result of many years experience, I feel bound to offer the above remark in this my Report to Your Excellency, although I am aware that such is not the general received opinion as regards these people. As Your Excellency will no doubt receive a most full and particular Report from Mr. Perley, I shall not trouble Your Excellency at this time with any further remarks on the subject, feeling confident that the abilities and experience of that Gentleman, are much better adapted to do justice to the cause he has engaged in, than any thing I can possibly attempt to offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. BARBERIE,

Indian Commissioner, County Restigouche.

His Excellency Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR GENERAL ON INDIAN RESERVES.

Crown Land Office, 29th June, 1841.

SIR,—In obedience to your Excellency's commands, I have now the honor to transmit the following Report, Schedule, and Sketches, shewing the extent and situation of the Reserved Indian Lands in New Brunswick, stating also, at what dates, and for what particular Tribes of Indians, the said Reserves were respectively made.

Fourteen Tracts, containing sixty one thousand two hundred and seventy three acres, have been reserved in this Province for their benefit, but the title to these lands still remains in the Crown,—leave only "to occupy and possess during pleasure," having been given to the Indians, they cannot at present, of themselves, prevent the encroachments, which have now, to a considerable extent, been made by unauthorized persons, who have in most cases, against the will of the Indians, settled upon, and continue to retain forcible possession of many parts of the best of their lands, neither can they punish the trespassers, who continue year after year to plunder their Reserves of the most valuable Timber.

Indian Commissioners have been appointed by Government to expend the small sums of money which are annually granted by the Legislature for the relief of the Indians, but the law has not yet vested the Indian Commissioners with sufficient power to enable them to exercise authority over the Reserves.

With a few exceptions only, the Reserves have been established by Minutes of Council, but their boundaries have never been properly ascertained, and but few of the side or rear lines have yet been surveyed, their exact situation therefore, is imperfectly known, and they must continue liable to be interfered with, by those persons who obtain licence from this Office to cut Timber on the adjoining Crown Lands,

Lands, until their precise limits are defined by actual survey, and plans thereof filed in this Department.

For these reasons, the information contained in the annexed sketches, is rather scanty, nor indeed can they be relied upon as being even so far strictly correct.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,
JOHN S. SAUNDERS,
Surveyor General.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

10,000 acres on both sides of the Little South West, at its confluence with the North West Miramichi—13th August, 1783.

3,033 acres on the North side of the North West Miramichi, commencing opposite the lower end of Beobear's Point, and running up—10th January, 1789—for John Julian and the Miramichi Tribe of Indians.

8,700 acres on the North East side of the North West Miramichi, opposite the Sevogle Streams; also

750 acres on the North side of the North West Miramichi, opposite the Little South West—5th March, 1805—for John Julian and the Micmac Tribe of Indians.

240 acres, Burnt Church Point, Miramichi Bay; also

1,400 acres on the North side Burnt Church, above Point Au Moreau, Miramichi Bay; also

9,035 acres on the Tabusintac River, from Cowaseget's Creek, up five miles, and back from each side one and a half miles, including 10 acres at M'Gray's Point, and 25 acres at Ferry Point—18th February, 1802—for Indian Natives inhabiting the Tabusintac District.

COUNTY OF KENT.

4,600 acres on the North side of the Richibucto River, from William Harley's grant to Bass River—9th September, 1805—modified the 25th February, 1824—for Richibucto Indians.

3,500 acres on the North side of the Shebuctouche River, from Dominic Robicheau's grant up to the upper line of lot No. 25, above Mill Creek—1st November, 1810—for Shebuctouche Indians.

COUNTY OF CARLETON.

16,000 acres on the East side of the River Saint John, from the Tobique Rocks to opposite the Mouth of the Arestook, and embracing both sides of the Tobique for about three miles up—4th September, 1801—for Neville Bernard and his Tribe of Milicete Indians.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

2,600 acres on the South side of the Pokemouche River, from Waganchitz Brook, up three miles, surveyed in August, 1811, under an Order in Council of May, 1804—for John B. Pomainville and 16 others, Indians of Pokemouche River.

1000 acres, being 500 on each side of the Nepisiquit River, between the Pabineau and the Strong Waters, occupied by the Nepisiquit Indians of the Micmac Tribe,—(date of Reserve cannot be ascertained.)

400 acres on the North side of Eel River, and South of the Grant to R. Ferguson, occupied by the Restigouche Indians, but no record appears.

COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN.

15 acres, the three Islands, called the "Brothers," near Sandy Point, Kennebec-casis Bay—19th September, 1838—for the Milicete Indians. Held under the Lieutenant Governor's Licence of Occupation.

Total,—61,273 Acres.

 RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAVE SETTLED UPON AND OCCUPY PORTIONS
 OF THE INDIAN RESERVES IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, 1841.

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

Eel Ground at Oxford Brook,	13
Indian Point, 13 miles above Newcastle,	18
Little South West Reserve,	49
Reserve on the North West Miramichi, above Wild Cat Brook,	3
Reserve at Burnt Church River,	1
Tabusintac River,	3—87

GLOUCESTER.

Pokemouche Reserve,	1— 1
---------------------	------

KENT.

Richibucto River Reserve,	8
Buctouche River Reserve,	5—13

CARLETON.

Tobique Reserve,	16
Madawaska,	1—17

Total of Persons,	118
-------------------	-----

RETURN OF INDIAN RESERVED LANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, APRIL 20. 1842.

Total extent in acres of Indian Reserved Lands,	62,223
Total number of persons who have settled on them, whose cases are reported on by Mr. Perley,	118
Total number of Indians in the Province, Male and Female.	1,377
