

By extending to him this privilege, he will at once become interested, which will be a very important step gained towards his civilization.

The missionary may succeed in arresting his thoughts, and turning them to the consideration of the welfare of his soul; and, in my opinion, it is then more immediately the part of the Government to render its assistance, and to direct his mind to the welfare of the body; and the first step, it occurs to me, towards accomplishing this, will be to give him an interest in his earthly possession, a title to his property, so that he may be assured that the labour he may bestow upon it may not be reaped by others, but by his own family after him, which has not always been guaranteed to him. There are instances of Indians having been removed from their settlements, when they had taken the first step towards civilization, namely, by clearing a portion of the forest, to a more remote part of the province, where they were expected to begin again to clear the land, with no better security than they had before; and have thus had the mortification to see the sweat of their brow enjoyed by the purchaser of their former possessions. Such a policy, my Lord, you will yourself see, is most unwise, and must have a most disheartening effect upon the Indian, who is not forward of himself to labour, and he will most certainly become less so if such a system should be continued.

But his Excellency's plan of giving the Indian, as soon as he is in a condition to hold it, his land in fee and common soccage, would effectually, if judiciously carried out, obviate for the future so ruinous a policy as that to which I have just alluded.

The Indian requires every inducement to wean him from his indolent and listless life; and when once his mind becomes engaged in, and turned to the pursuits of agriculture, even on ever so small a scale, a point has been gained, and no obstacle should be thrown in his way; on the contrary, every encouragement should be held out to him to secure his perseverance in well doing.

With these general remarks, I will now proceed to notice more particularly the several heads of your Lordship's communication.

I. Under this head, I would simply remark, that the local superintendent might be the channel of communication with the Government; but I apprehend he could scarcely be expected to have so intimate a knowledge of each individual case as those missionaries who might be labouring within the bounds of his superintendency.

Residing, as the missionaries do, with the Indians constantly, they would be most intimately acquainted with their several characters, and the best qualified to decide who were the farthest advanced, and the most prepared by their previous habits, to receive and make a good use of the boon which his Excellency wishes to extend towards them.

By application to them, I am sure they would be most happy to furnish the superintendent with the most accurate information he could require.

II. The duty prescribed under this head might safely be committed to the missionary; but to relieve him from the responsibility of the choice of candidates, and thus throw the onus upon him, as well as to keep down jealousies which would necessarily arise, it would be better to entrust it to the hands of some disinterested person or persons, who had the welfare of the Indians in view, and who would in reality attend to the duty, a most important one, in a conscientious and unbiassed manner.

It would even be more judicious to relieve the local superintendent also of this duty; for the charge of partiality would as likely be fastened upon him as upon the missionary, where the privilege could not at first be safely committed to all.

III. The queries under this division are so much to the point, and so fully meet the case, that I can suggest nothing, but dismiss it with this single remark, that many might be found, and certainly some who are quite capable of taking care of their property, who could not comply with all the requirements contained in the four queries. But doubtless exceptions would have to be made in this as in all other cases. The commissioners might have the authority given them to recommend those who could comply with the 1st and 2d, but not fully with the 3d and 4th.

IV. I am of opinion, that the object sought to be obtained under this head of his Excellency's plan, will require a good deal of judgment to carry it out beneficially.

In the first place, the greatest care possible will have to be taken in giving up the title of his land to the Indian at all, and therefore every safeguard should be thrown around him to prevent his disposing of it afterwards.

I know that many of the Indians desire it, and would not abuse the trust committed to them. But at the same time, I think as a first experiment, the privilege should be extended to but very few, to be selected from the most prosperous of the Indian missions or settlements. The number might readily be extended, if it was found to be beneficial, by the addition of a few every year. As to the quantity of land to be given to each individual, that will require a good deal of consideration. In the case of a single man, who should give up only his own individual interests, 100 acres might be as much as he could well manage. But in the case of a married man with a family, such an allowance would be altogether insufficient. This might be obviated by giving every male member of the family 100 acres, on attaining the age of 21 years, if he were otherwise qualified.

There would still be the interests of the female to be regarded, who is now entitled equally with the male to a participation in the funds of the tribe.

She might either receive an allowance of land, or her right might be commuted, by the payment