

and for the purpose of hunting and trapping;—these intermarrying with the native Indians produced the race of people now known as the English half-breeds or properly speaking half Indians.

In the year 1783 another Company was formed, composed of French Canadians from Montreal, who commenced the fur trade further East and North of Lake Superior, without any permission from the Government or otherwise. This Company, it is said, at one time employed five thousand men. At length trouble arose between the Hudson's Bay Company and the French Company; and frequent quarrels arose, sometimes ending in bloodshed.

In the year 1821 the two rival Companies amalgamated. The French Canadians also intermarried with the native Indians, and their descendants were called French half-breeds—this happened over a century ago—so that all these half-breeds have become, as it were, a distinct race of people.

They are a civilized class of people. I have been amongst them as a stranger, have boarded and lodged with them, and I have invariably found them very obliging and hospitable, and to their honor be it said, I saw none of them as rough and wicked as some of our own class of Canadians. They have Schools and Churches wherever they have settlements, as I have before mentioned—and I was informed by an official who assisted in taking the Census, that they can nearly all read and write. They have small houses simply built of round timber in the following manner: for a house 16 feet by 24 feet the sills are laid, six posts are hewn square, one for each corner and one in the middle lengthwise, grooves of two inches are cut in the posts in which plates are placed to hold the posts—then timbers are cut to the proper lengths and a two inch tenon made at either end to fit the groove in the posts—these timbers so prepared are slipped in between the posts in the grooves, one on top of the other, until the spaces are filled up to the plates, which are from 8 feet to 10 feet above the sills—thus forming the sides and ends of the building; the cracks and openings are all plastered over on the inside and outside and then whitewashed. Some of their buildings are only 16 feet square in which case only four posts are required.

The roof is made of poles laid close together in rafter form and filled out with clay, mortar and prairie grass puddled into the clay at one end, the butts of the grass covering the clay—this makes a tight and substantial roof—buildings thus constructed afford a warm house, and I would recommend settlers with limited means to adopt this plan for their houses, where the timber is so small that they cannot make them in the old Canadian style.

The reader might wonder why the Half-breeds rose in rebellion a few years ago, if they are civilized and satisfied. They thought that our Government should first consult them and give them a certain right to the lands they then occupied, and also lands for their children. An arrangement has now been come to between these people and the Government which gives to every man, woman and child living at that time, one hundred and forty acres of land; with this they are now satisfied, and they seem to be well pleased with the action of the Government.

INDIANS.

ARE THERE MANY INDIANS AND ARE THEY PEACEABLY INCLINED?

This is another question frequently put to me, and I can say in answer there-