

was less talk and more work.

Educational matters were beginning now to attract more attention in this part of the country, and in 1841 a new Act was passed, which again was amended in 1843. In that year the District Council appointed me School Superintendent for Nichol. It was a very difficult business for a teacher to get a respectable salary even of fifty pounds a year in the Township of Nichol. The consequence was the teachers could not give their whole time to the business of teaching, and in one or two instances the salary was actually so low as ten dollars a month, and I had to threaten the trustees of one section that I would recommend their school to be closed unless they paid their teacher better. The plain fact was, the children increased in quite a large proportion compared to the incomes of their parents, and although the people, I do believe, were willing to pay for education, they were not able. Since then great advances have been made in educational matters, and teachers are liberally paid, and a good education can be got for next to nothing. The Free School system is very popular, but I will always maintain that if all property is taxed for educational purposes, education itself ought to be compulsory, which is the case in Prussia, and in some of the neighboring States; and a very intelligent gentleman from Boston, whom I met at dinner at Thorp's hotel, told us the system worked well. He told us he had visited Dr. Ryerson, our great educational chief, and had mentioned to him the laws of Massachusetts on this subject. It is not fair that property should be heavily taxed, and the children of the idle, the reprobate, and the careless should run wild in the streets and highways, learning little but evil themselves, and corrupting others. This subject reminds me that in the winter of 1841 or 1842 a large encampment of Indians was made in my woodland, and of course I went up to see them. They were very respectable people from the river Credit, and Wesleyan Methodists. We used to hear them in the evenings singing hymns, and they had testaments in their wigwams, and many of them could read. They were well behaved and honest, and the squaws made quantities of baskets and sold them in the village. Some of the men were fine, big, handsome fellows, and some of the women very fair and comely looking. They had one long shaped wigwam, and two or three small round ones, and were quite pleased when lady visitors, especially, called upon them, I paid them a visit once with a lady visitor, and we sat and cracked away as well as we could for some time. One merry old lady was a great snuffer, and showed us her stock, which she was to take home with her. I remember she had one bladder of Scotch snuff quite full, besides some other parcels of it. I think their minister was a chief called Jones, but he was not with them. They will eat almost anything, and their cookery did not appear very choice. They were very fond of turnips, and got a great many from my farm. I asked one of their hunters one day why he did not kill more wolves, as the bounty was so high. His answer was, "Indians no care to kill wolves: they hunters as well as Indian." They often passed my