

observed in the determinate definition of their boundaries. If principles be once violated, or compromised, they will assuredly avenge themselves upon the culprits. Sooner or later the result of such a sacrilege will be ruinous discord and strife; and the fair edifice which, in *our* wisdom, we thought to erect on a sure foundation, will prove to be but a house built upon the sand, or the baseless fabric of a vision. These hindrances may, besides have the good effect of sending us with more earnestness and humility to the throne of the Father to pray for that unity of heart and mind for which Christ himself prayed on behalf of His people, and without which any outward bond of union which we may devise will be of no avail in promoting the progress of the Kingdom of Christ.

THE RED INDIANS.

It is a mistake to suppose that the aboriginal tribes are rapidly "dying out." Reliable statistics are before us to show that many of the Indian settlements in Canada are increasing their population in a considerable ratio, and that the native tribes in this Province number no fewer than twenty thousand souls. The care of these tribes or remnants of tribes occupies the attention of a special department of the Government. And it cannot be disputed that they have a just claim on the "white man" to whom their ancient hunting grounds have been ceded, and in whose cause their ancestors freely shed their blood. Some dissatisfaction exists among them at present in consequence of the discontinuance of the annual "presents" hitherto bestowed by the Crown; and the attention of the Government is very properly directed to the enquiry, how the Indian department may be rendered self-sustaining and efficient, how the reserved lands may be best managed for the interests of the tribes as well as of the public, and how the Red Men may be raised above the position of dependance in which they are too content to remain, and trained to habits of industry and self reliance.

Three special Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council, in September, 1856, have carefully investigated all the "Indian affairs," and presented a Report, replete with valuable information. It is one of the best "Blue Books" we have seen in Canada. On its authority, most of the following statements are made.

At the earliest period of which any record exists, Canada was in possession of two nations, the Algonquins and the Hurons, or Wyandots. Under these nations many tribes were comprised. The word Huron is of French origin. Generically the Hurons were Iroquois, speaking a dialect of the Iroquois' language. At the time of the first European settlements in this Province, the two nations mentioned formed friendly alliances with the French. During the 17th century fierce wars raged between the Hurons and the great Iroquois confederacy of the Five Nations, afterwards called the Six Nations on the accession of the Tuscarora to the league.

The Indians now in Canada are chiefly Iroquois (of the six nations), Algonquins, Chippewas, and Mississaguas. The once famous Hurons are found only in the small settlement of La Jeune Lorette, and in the Wyandot reserve on the Detroit river. On the Lower St. Lawrence wandering Micmacs are met, representatives of a decaying nation that once overspread Nova Scotia, and many parts of New Brunswick and Maine.

The Iroquois of Caughnawaga, near the city of Montreal, came to this Province from the States of Connecticut and New York; and were settled by the French on their present Seigniorship in the year 1680. They were returned by the last census as 1342 souls. The Indians of the Lake of Two Mountains, also