

with the United States," ultimately secured all the Six Nations in the possession of the lands they were then occupying.

Captain Brant soon saw that the attractions of the fertile region he had selected would be appreciated by the white man, who would make settlements around it, and thus drive the Indians from the condition of hunters to that of farmers. As a compensation for the loss of the same, he recommended sales of a portion of the land, so that a fund might be raised for the immediate benefit of his people, who might thus also secure a perpetual revenue. As his opinions were adopted by the Indians, they, in 1798, surrendered 352,707 acres, which were then sold for £44,867, in accordance with the desire of the Indians themselves, the government having sanctioned the measure on the conviction that it would be beneficial to them.

Other sales have been made, until the reservation contains about 53,000 acres.

Several of these Indians are now good farmers, and conduct their operations on a large scale. Generally, the members of these nations are well supplied with cattle, horses, sheep, and swine, and have comfortable habitations. Some are content to live very plainly; but, although they do not usually farm so well as the white freeholders around them, their condition is much better than that of the poor whites in large cities; and all testimony concurs in saying that they have made decidedly appreciable progress in agriculture within the last few years.

In going to their council-house I met several loads of grain *en route* to the Brantford market, and owned by Indians; and a considerable surplus was this year raised for sale. On the whole, although much remains to be done in the way of improvement, these Indians are unequivocally in comfortable and independent circumstances.

By slow degrees the old taste or passion for hunting and fishing, usually believed to be instinctive and ineradicable in the Indian, is dying away. I was assured on reliable authority that the influence of settled habits and comfortable homes is so great that most of the young men have now no more inclination for the chase than is found among those of the same age in our own race.

Several of these Indians are carpenters and shoemakers, and there are some tailors and blacksmiths among them. Many individuals are said to have a strong inclination for speculating—by which "trading" or bartering horses, cattle, buggies, &c., should be understood.

There are at present about a dozen instances of intermarriage between members of these nations and the whites.

In several important particulars a removal from the immediate neighborhood of Brantford, and the improvement in substantial comforts, have produced valuable results.

One of the most suggestive indications of the period is that an agricultural fair was held exclusively among the Indians during the present year. The New England Society contributed £20 to the fund for prizes, the list of which included cattle of different breeds, and was, with a few variations, much the same as among the whites on such occasions. The exhibition was highly creditable and well calculated to improve the stock and husbandry of the Indians, and also to exert a cheering and elevating influence upon them by instituting pleasant social and public gatherings; while to encourage an honorable and pleasurable pride in having good stock and in fostering the domestic animals, is to substitute entirely new characteristics for those predominant among people who think of the inferior creatures as only subjects for the chase and the knife.