

No. 102.

Copy.

DOWNING STREET, 5th October, 1836.

SIR,

I have received your Despatch of the 20th of August last, No. 70, reporting an expedition you had made in person to the shores of the Lake Huron, and the arrangements into which you had there entered into with the various tribes of Indians. Assured of the vigilant humanity by which your conduct, towards this helpless race of men, the survivors of the ancient possessors and lords of the country, could not but be directed, and conscious of the incomparable superiority of your means of forming a correct judgment how their welfare could be most effectually consulted. I have thought myself not only at liberty but obliged, in deference to your opinions, to recommend for His Majesty's sanction the arrangements and compacts into which you have entered; and influenced by the same consideration, the King has been graciously pleased to approve them.

His Majesty, however, directs me to commend these tribes in the strongest possible terms to your continued care, and to signify his express injunction that no measure should be contemplated which may afford a reasonable prospect of rescuing this remnant of the aboriginal race, from the calamitous fate which has so often befallen uncivilized man, when brought into immediate contact with the natives of Europe or their descendants.

Whatever intelligence or suggestions it may be in your power to convey, respecting the condition of these people and the prospect of their being reclaimed from the habits of savage life, and being enabled to share in the blessings of christian knowledge and social improvement, will at all times be received by His Majesty with the highest interest.

I have, &amp;c.,

Lieutenant Governor,

(Signed)

GIENELG.

F. B. HEAD.

A true copy, J. JOSEPH.

Copy.

No. 95.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA,  
20th November, 1836.

MY LORD;

As the object of this communication is to endeavour to supply your Lordship with the information respecting the Indians and the Indian Department, required by your Lordship's despatch No. 12, I feel it may be satisfactory that I should commence by explaining what opportunities I have had of forming the opinion I am about to offer on the subject.

I have, therefore, the honor to state to your Lordship, that I attended the annual delivery of Presents to the visiting Indians at Amherstburgh, as also that which took place for the first time at the Great Manitoulin island in Lake Huron.

During my inspectional tour of the Province, I also visited (with one or two trifling exceptions) the whole of the Indian settlements in Upper Canada, and in doing so, made it my duty to enter every shanty or cottage, being desirous to judge, with my own eyes, of the actual situation of that portion of the Indian population which is undergoing the operation of being civilized.

I have had a slight opportunity of making myself acquainted with the Indian character in South America, and from the above data, I have now the honor to transmit to your Lordship the following observations on the subject.

## MEMORANDUM.

The fate of the Red inhabitants of America, the real proprietors of its soil is without any exception the most sinful story recorded in the history of the human race; and when one reflects upon the anguish they have suffered from our hands, and the cruelties and injustice they have endured, the mind, accustomed to its own vices, is lost in utter astonishment at finding, that in the Red man's heart there exists no sentiment of animosity against us—no feeling of revenge—on the contrary, that our appearance at the humble portal of his Wigwam, is to this hour a subject of unusual joy. If the white man be lost in the forest, his cry of distress will call the most eager hunter from his game, and among the tribe there is not only pleasure, but pride in contending with each other who shall be the first to render him assistance and food.

So long as we were obtaining possession of their country by open violence, the fatal result of the unequal contest was but too clearly understood; but now that we have succeeded in exterminating their race from vast regions of land, where nothing in the present day remains of the poor Indian, but the unnoticed bones of his ancestors, it seems inexplicable how it should happen, that even where their race barely lingers in existence, it should still continue to wither, droop and vanish before us like grass in the progress of the forest in flames. "The Red men," lately exclaimed a celebrated Miami Cacique, "are melting like snow before the sun."

Whenever and wherever the two races come into contact with each other, it is sure to prove fatal to the Red man. However bravely for a short time he may resist our bayonets and our fire-arms, sooner or later he is called upon by death to submit to his decree. If we stretch forth the hand of friendship, the liquid fire it offers him to drink, proves still more destructive than our wrath; and, lastly, if we attempt to christianize the Indians, and for that sacred object congregate them in villages of substantial log houses, lovely and beautiful as such a theory appears, it is an undeniable fact, to which, unhesitatingly, I add my humble testimony, that as soon as the hunting season commences, the men (from warm clothes and warm housing having lost their hardi-