

In my former papers I have shewn that many of the tribes in past days, before the white man came among them, had excellent laws of their own, that there have been many wise heads among them. I have shewn also that the Indian is willing and ready to a certain extent to accept our laws and customs as better than his own, but prefers to take them at our hands and mould them in his own way. I have spoken, too, of the Cherokees in Indian Territory, 22,000 in number, who already have their own Governor, their own Parliament, and make their own laws. What the United States has done for one tribe of 22,000 Indians, I propose our Dominion Government should do for her 17,000 Ontario Indians; hand over to them their funds, which are at present held in trust for them, appoint them a Lieutenant-Governor from among their own people, let them select a spot for their capital, and have their own Parliament and make their own laws. And if this be successful, I think, as time goes on, the whole management of Indian Affairs might be transferred from the Indian Department in Ottawa to the Indian Government at the Indian Capital.

And then the Missionary work. This also, I incline to think, might be far better managed by the Indians themselves. The Christian churches all seem to begrudge the expenditure on Indian Missions, and, as I pointed out in a former paper, it is no credit to us as a Christian nation that the Indians of this country who have accepted our Christianity should already be broken up into so many little sects quarrelling with and abusing one another. If the Indians were united as a people, I doubt very much but that they would unite also in the matter of religion. The national sentiment would out-balance the sect sentiment. The lines are not so sharply drawn between the different *isms* where Indians are concerned as they are among the whites. I think the Indians would probably adopt a Christian religion of their own, in which all of them