

THE INDIAN.

Single Copies, each:]
TEN CENTS.

Where are our Chiefs of old? Where our Heroes of mighty name?
The fields of their battles are silent—scarce their mossy tombs remain!—OSSIAN.

[\$1.50 per Annum
IN ADVANCE.

VOL. I.

HAGERSVILLE, ONT., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1886.

NO. 8

OBITUARY.

Mr. David Thompson, M. P., for the county of Haldimand died on 18th April, at Indiana, after a long and painful illness.

Mr. Thompson was a kind friend to the Indians. Though a strong Reformer he took no part in the debate in the last session in which the leaders of his party so strongly opposed our rights to the franchise. He represented the county of Haldimand for about 23 years and it is a fact of which his friends may be proud that politicians of the opposite party unite in saying he was an honorable gentleman in every particular.

His death will necessitate an election shortly in Haldimand County, in which there is part of the Six Nation Reserve. If it takes place after the present voter's list under the new Franchise Act is complete the Indians in Oneida Township will likely have a vote, and will be canvased by both the candidates for election. This will give our Indian friends in Oneida Township a chance of learning the political situation of the country, of thinking and deciding for themselves, of showing themselves *men* and *persons* not children, and of helping to send to Parliament the man they think will be best able to attend to Indian matters.

THE UNITED STATES INDIAN REPORT.

Through the kindness of Mr. A. S. Gatschet, we have received the Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the United States for the year 1885.

It is a volume of about 900 pages beautifully printed and bound in cloth—and contains matter of great interest, and importance, to the welfare of our brethren across the lakes.

From the report, of the Commissioner Mr. J. D. C. Atkins, which occupies seventy pages, and which we have carefully read, it would appear the United States Government have at last obtained a head to the Indian Department who is honestly endeavouring to treat the tribes in a just, temperate, and christian manner.

In this issue we give our readers part of the report of one of their agents, Mr. Armstrong, of the Crow Agency, Montana, which possesses this sterling quality of being "the last opportunity of saying anything officially."

We do not however agree with him as to agreements with the Tribes. He considers the Tribes should not be consulted with. but that the Government use their own wisdom "regardless of whether the Indians are pleased or not."

History shows that nearly all (we might leave out the word "nearly") the treaty proposals have been made by the Government. They have argued them before the Indian councils, obtained their consent to the treaty—and then, alas! in

many cases broken them. What, think we in Canada, would be the state of affairs, if such a Government should take upon themselves the authority to deal with our people's birthright, without consulting the Indians? Such an idea would be much more reasonable in the Dominion of Canada which is under a Monarchy, but in a country where the head officers have a surity of only four years position, the natural influence is that the United States is "incompetent to enter into an agreement or keep an agreement after they have made it!"

In most other particulars we are at one with this bold Indian agent, who, we are sorry to see is about to leave the Indian service.

President Cleveland has evidently obtained a wise, earnest, active, and christian Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Mr. J. D. C. Atkins, and we will in our next number give a lengthy extract from his report of the Indians in the United States.

IMPORTANT TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We intend during the next week to send to our correspondents upon the Reserves throughout Canada, packages of blank paper, suitable for them to write upon. We will also send a few stamped and addressed envelopes, of which we will continue to send more, as we see that our reporters take an interest in THE INDIAN and forward us news from the Reserves.

This will be of considerable expense to us, but we wish to make the paper so interesting to all Indians, that they will desire to see it, to learn the news of the various Bands among which they perhaps have friends and relatives.

We would also like to have native correspondents from the Tribes in the United States.

We wish our correspondents to state their opinions boldly and fully. Be particular to mention what claims or grievances your Band may have. Not little local grievances, but such as may have reference to your Band as a whole, or the action of the Indian Department or its agents.

As stated in the first number, THE INDIAN is published solely in the interests of our people. The editor, though having his own political opinion, has not endeavored to give them to his readers.

Therefore write just as you wish, THE INDIAN is open to anything the Indians see fit to say, within the bounds of reason.

Write on only one side of the paper. Put what you have to say in a short form. Do not fear bad spelling or grammar, we will make that all right. Enclose your communication in the envelope. Do not seal it but turn the flap in.

LOOK OUT FOR FRAUDS.

We clip the following from the *American Agriculturist*, for May, which our readers would do well to remember. The country is full of sharpers. Look out for:

"The *Lightning-Rod Agent* who agrees to encase a farm building with lightning-rods for five dollars, and subsequently presents a bill for one hundred and five dollars—one hundred dollars for the rods, and five dollars for putting them up.

Worthless recipes for curing hog cholera and other animal diseases.

Swindlers who claim royalties on some patented article which they may find in a farmer's possession.

The person who sells rights for a worthless patent process for curing tobacco.

Organizers of Stock Companies who have just a few more shares left, and are willing to let you in "on the ground floor."

Quack Traveling Dentists who advertise to furnish a set of teeth fully as good as the best for a very small sum of money.

The Sharpers who are advertising Australian and Russian oats, which are no better than the so-called Bohemian oats.

HE WANTED A RED ONE.

A member of the Vokes Comedy Company who wore a blue-and-white striped shirt, a white collar and a brilliant cardinal tie stood in the office of a gentleman in this city on Saturday and while waiting for a friend to transact certain business, said to a clerk:

"I heah you have an Indian Reserve neah heah, I should like very much to see some of those Indians, I should indeed."

"Well," replied the clerk, "there are always plenty of specimens in the city on Saturdays, and on your way to the Kerby House you may see any quantity of them."

The Indian seeker and his friend left the office accompanied by the clerk and on the way met a quartette of aborigines.

"There are your Indians" said Mr. K.

"Aw! Oh! but I thought they were red, you know, as red—as my tie."

"Oh! there are plenty of red ones, real red, but they are very wild, and are never seen in the civilized portions of the country. They never leave the Reserve."

"I say, old fellow, I should like ever so much to go to the Reserve and see a real, red one," and they parted, the Englishman carrying with him the delusion that there are Indians of a bright cardinal color, monkeying around the forests of the Indian Reserves in Canada. So little do those in England generally know of the Indians of to-day.—*Brantford Expositor*.