

form the organization which, eighty years before the American Revolution, held up their union as a political model to the English colonies.

I deemed the present condition of these Indians worthy of close investigation. Every facility for obtaining information regarding them was cheerfully afforded by their courteous "visiting superintendent," Mr. J. F. Gilkison; and, in company with him, I visited their principal school and was present at one of their councils.

In the treaty with the United States, at the close of the Revolutionary war, Great Britain made no stipulation in behalf of her Indian allies; and "the ancient country of the Six Nations, the residence of their ancestors from a time far beyond their earliest traditions, was included within the boundaries granted to the Americans;" but official pledges had been given, that as soon as hostilities were at an end they should be restored, at the expense of the government, to the condition they were in before the war began.

On behalf of his tribe, Captain Brant, the celebrated Mohawk chief, whose fame has become historical and is perpetuated in the name of the pleasant and flourishing town of Brantford, refused offers to reside in the United States, and claimed from General Haldimand, then commander-in-chief in Canada, the fulfillment of the pledges. The warrior was received with ample cordiality, and first selected a tract of land near the lower end of Lake Ontario, in the bay of Quinte, where six hundred and eighty-three Mohawks, who are prosperous and whose numbers are increasing, now reside.

The Senecas, who intended to remain in the United States, became apprehensive that their troubles had not terminated, and were exceedingly desirous that the Mohawks should reside so near as to assist them, if necessary, by force of arms, or to afford them an asylum if they should find it needful. Under these circumstances, Captain Brant requested permission to have another and more convenient territory, and ultimately selected the country on the Grand River, flowing from the north into Lake Erie, about forty miles above Buffalo, as a suitable location for maintaining a ready intercourse with the residue of the Six Nations, and as affording facilities for corresponding with the nations and tribes of the upper lakes.

The result was a formal grant, from the Crown, of the land, to the breadth of six miles on each side of the Grand River, beginning at Lake Erie and extending in that proportion to the head of the stream, and this "the Mohawks and others of the Six Nations, who had either lost their possessions in the war or wished to retire from them to the British, were to enjoy forever." The land was purchased from the Chippewas. The course of the river is about one hundred miles, so that the territory was that extent in length and twelve miles in width. It is a pleasantly undulated and exceedingly fertile region. The historian of the period says: "This tract, though much smaller than they had been obliged to forsake, within the United States, amply satisfied these loyal Indians."

At the conclusion of the war, the legislature of the State of New York manifested a desire to expel the Six Nations. No doubt this contributed to increase the number of emigrants to the Grand River, although, in 1784, the State, urged by Generals Washington and Schuyler, who thought the proposed policy was injudicious, inhuman and unjust, and that "a veil should be drawn over the past, and these children of the forest should be taught that their true interest and safety must henceforward depend upon the cultivation of amicable relations