

THE INDIAN LANDS.

[From the HAMILTON SPECTATOR, October 4th, 1848.]

THE following documents have been handed us for insertion. The case has excited a great deal of attention in this city and along the Grand River, and the correspondence is doubtless interesting to the parties more immediately concerned:—

[COPY.] No. 13.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES BRUCE, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,—In the Memorials I have had the honor of addressing to your Lordship, the painful duty has been forced upon me of detailing the hardships, sufferings, and deep distress in which a very numerous body of Her Most Gracious Majesty's dutiful, loyal, and industrious subjects, have been involved, by the mistakes, blunders, or something worse, of the Officers connected with the Crown Lands' Departments.

My last one handed your Lordship, by that devoted friend of the poor emigrant, the Hon. ADAM FERRIE, in which was set forth the further hardship of illegal incarceration in the common goal of this place, together with a prayer for liberation from such cruel incarceration, under my then peculiar position, has met with no reply.

I should not have deemed it necessary to trouble your Lordship at present any further in the matter, but the following will be my apology:—

Learning, on my last visit to Montreal, that this matter of dispute, regarding the Indians and their lands, was an Imperial question, and could not be disposed of by any authority here; and having, in former Memorials, prayed that the various documents connected with the matter may be transmitted for the consideration of Her Majesty, I should have been disposed to await the issue of such application.

My incarceration of last January, for 30 days, at the very time my wife was expecting in a few weeks to become a mother, called forth a letter to her friends in London, and directing attention to the documents and promise in the following:—

[No. 1.] "LONDON, 2nd April, 1847.

"The petition from Mr. Cheshire, with all other documents, have been sent to the Colonial Office, one of the Clerks promised they should be placed before Lord Grey. The Clerk said, Mr. C.'s petition was too long, but that *he would*

put it into proper form for Lord Grey. He also said, that whatever was done, would be by instructions sent out to Canada.

(Signed) "R. P. BICKERTON."

[No. 2.] "34, ST. JAMES'S PLACE, }
"June 6th, 1848. }

"SIR,—Enclosed is the answer I have received from Mr. Hawes, to the enquiry I addressed to the Colonial Office at your request. I may mention, that previous to writing, I spoke to Mr. Hawes, and showed him the passages you pointed out to me in the pamphlet, relating to the case of Mr. Cheshire.

"I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) "DUDLEY COURTS STUART."
"R. P. BICKERTON, Esq."

[No. 3.] "COLONIAL OFFICE, June 5, 1848.

"DEAR LORD DUDLEY,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 31st ult., in which you have called my attention to the ejection of Mr. Cheshire from certain lands in Canada. I have caused a search to be made among our records, and I can now safely say, that we possess no information upon the subject.

"It is possible that Mr. Cheshire, owing to imperfect survey of lands, has had lots assigned to him which in reality belonged to the Indians, and from which, when the fact was ascertained, he has been ejected.

"Questions of this kind being entirely under the control of the local government, it is to Lord Elgin that Mr. Cheshire must apply for redress.

"Believe me, very faithfully yours,

(Signed) "B. HAWES."
"TO LORD DUDLEY STUART."

I have therefore, my Lord, thought it a duty I owe to myself, fellow-settlers whom I represent, and to others taking a deep interest in this matter, thus publicly to lay the matter before your Lordship; at the same time, calling attention to the proceedings now going on here in the Court of Queen's Bench; as also other presentments for riot, on the part of the Indians, the particulars of which, I presume, will come more fully under the attention of your Lordship, through other and more important channels than, my Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most Obed't. Humble Serv't,
F. J. CHESHIRE.

City of Hamilton, Oct. 3rd, 1848.