

proceeds of the sales of the territory adjoining the Canda Company's land. (The territory north of Owen's Sound is from fifty to sixty miles in extent; contains much excellent land, and is skirted with good fisheries.) To this proposal, I am informed, the poor Indians did readily accede, with tears in their eyes: their hopes revived, and their countenances beamed with joy. This was what they wanted—land secured to them, from which they could not be removed, where they could have help to build houses and settle their families, and where they could at length rest their bones.

Such was the substance of what transpired between Sir F. Head and the Saugeeng Indians; from which your Lordship will perceive that they entirely refused to comply with Sir Francis' *first* proposal; that they never did, and do not now, intend to remove to the Munedoolin Islands, any more than Sir Francis himself intends to remove there, and that they surrendered to him a part of their territory with a view of getting the other part secured to them, and assistance to settle on it. Such is the understanding, and intention, and expectation of the Saugeeng Indians to this day.

I will notice but one other point in Sir F.'s statements. He represents to your Lordship that great *mortality* attends the civilization of the Indians. It is admitted, that Christianity does not impart to the Indian a *new body*, although it implants within him a *new heart*; and therefore constitutions impaired by intemperance, vice, and exposure, may become a prey to consumption and other diseases, after the Christian conversion and reformation of the Indians, as well as before. But is this mortality *increased* or *lessened* by the "Christianizing and civilizing process?" I will take the oldest Indian mission we have as an example, and the one the most unfavourably situated, according to Sir Francis' theory,—the river Credit mission, a mission within sixteen miles of Toronto, surrounded by a white population, embracing a tract of only 3000 acres of land, the Indian owners of which were drunkards to a man, woman, and child, with one, and only one, (female) exception. When I entered upon this mission, in 1827, there were 210 souls in the tribe, most of whom had been converted some months before, at the Grand River; now there are 245. Some have removed to the village from other places, others have removed to other places from this mission. I am unable to say which class of removals are the most numerous. The council of the tribe was called a few days since, in order to ascertain the comparative number of deaths during the last ten years, and during the ten years previous to their conversion. The deaths in every family during these two periods were ascertained as accurately as the memories of the older branches of each family would permit. The old chief stated the result as nearly as they could learn, that during the ten years immediately preceding their conversion, there were 300 deaths in his tribe; during the last ten years there had been from 50 to 60. This difference in the number of deaths during each of these two periods, the old chief feelingly ascribed to their becoming Christians. He said the Indians used to get drunk, some of them would fall into the fire and get burnt to death, some would freeze to death, some would starve to death, some would get killed in fighting with each other, some would die of consumption, from exposure to the hot and cold, many of the children would die of neglect, for want of food, and from the cold. Previous to the conversion of this tribe, they did not cultivate an acre of land; since their conversion, they have cleared from the forest, brought under cultivation and enclosed 820 acres of land; have grown the last year nearly 900 bushels of wheat and corn, nearly 1100 bushels of potatoes, 84 tons of hay, besides garden vegetables of various descriptions. They have 63 head of horn cattle, 110 pigs, 10 horses, 2 saw-mills, 200 shares in the Credit Harbour Company, have built several barns, and 20 houses, since the building of the first twenty houses for them by Sir