

But when the Indians attempt to combine the occupation of farming with the manufacture and sale of Indian wares it must be greatly to the prejudice of the former, as the latter employment takes them from home, often to obtain the material for their manufactures, and always to dispose of them, and what they have done in the agricultural line is frequently lost through neglect to plant the land they prepared, or when the seed is soon to attend to the growing crops, keep up fences, and reap or gather the products, until they are spoiled by frost or from being too ripe.

The schools described in my report for 1888 as being then conducted on several of the reserves in this Province continued their operations during the past year with, in some instances, it is hoped, satisfactory results.

The large majority of these Indians are Roman Catholics.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Micmacs and Amalacites of this Province have sustained a diminution of population, the former to the extent of nine and the latter by eleven souls. The decrease in the number of the Amelicités was occasioned by the emigration of some of them to the adjoining Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Sickness, and in some cases, it is feared, dissipation, were the causes of the diminution in the case of the Micmacs. Their Superintendent expresses regret in his report that intoxicants can be so easily obtained by them, entailing, as over-indulgence in them ever does, so much suffering on the Indians. It is to be hoped that earnest endeavors will be made to bring to justice the parties who violate the law by selling liquor to these Indians, and that vigilance will be exercised to prevent a repetition of the offence, and thus protect the Indians from ruin, and the public from scandal.

The population of the two tribes is 1,574, divided as follows;—Amalacites, 671, Micmacs, 903.

Many of the Amalacites follow the mixed avocations of farming and manufacturing baskets and other Indian wares, with the usual result that they make but little at either, especially at the former. Those of them who combine cutting timber and running rafts with agriculture appear to succeed better; but there can be little doubt that were those who possess sufficient land of good quality to devote their whole attention to cultivating it, they would be soon in more comfortable circumstances than they are at present.

The Micmacs' occupations of fishing and farming, which they generally combine, are less likely to interfere one with the other, and there seems to be no reason why these Indians should not do well, as the land on most of the reserves is arable, and the fisheries in the vicinity are all that could be desired; but they, as a rule, appear satisfied to obtain barely sufficient to sustain life, when by no very extraordinary effort they might rapidly become quite independent, the means being ready to their hand. In two or three instances, however, bands have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them, and have, for Indians, become very well off. For example, at Burnt Church and Eel Cove, in the County of Northumberland, and at Big Cove, in the County of Kent, the Indians are doing well by pursuing zealously both of the lines of industry above referred to.