

then, they are to become men and women—the great question is: are they to amalgamate with our white population and become one nation with us, or are they to be allowed to preserve their own nationality and continue to be Indians? My belief is that the latter alternative is what the Indian desires—and desires *very strongly*, throughout the length and breadth of the land, both in the United States and in Canada—not only the wild Indians of the north, but notably the most civilized and advanced of the tribes; and it is *this* impression, which a wide intercourse with the Indians during many years and over an extended area has produced on my mind, that must be my apology for these four papers on the subject.

The policy of the white man's government, it seems to me, both in Canada and in the United States, is to *un-Indianize the Indian*, and make him in every sense a white man. And it is against this policy that the Indian, whether in a wild state, or semi-civilized, or nearly wholly civilized, as it seems to me, is setting up his back. I believe it is this more than anything else that is hindering his progress, for he views everything that the white man does for him with suspicion, believing that this hated policy for the absorption of his race and his nationality is at the back of it. He is willing, ready to adopt the white man's clothing, the white man's laws, the white man's religion, and, for commercial purposes, the white man's language; but he is not willing to give up his nationality or his communism, or his native language in the domestic circle—he wishes to live apart from the white man, in a separate community, and to exercise, so far as is compatible with his position in the country, a control over his own affairs.

And what can be the harm in allowing him to do so? Would it be any menace to the peace of our country if the civilized Indians of Ontario were permitted to have their own centre of Government—their own Ottawa, so to speak; their own Lieutenant-Governor, and their own Parliament?