

assigned to them, and in appointing schoolmasters to educate the Indian children."

In 1831, Sir John Colborne again wrote as follows :

"If the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada is enabled to proceed with measures which have been followed on the Thames, and on Lake Hurons and Simcoe, I have no doubt that the Indians residing in this province may be civilized, and become good agriculturists, and, whilst I am here, I shall be most happy to assist in promoting their welfare and in securing their attachment to the British Government."

In the same year 1831, Peter Jones was in England ; and after showing to the Secretary of State, that the Indians of Upper Canada had of late much improved in civilization, he concluded in the following terms :—

"As our people are growing wiser, they are much pleased that our great father is taking a new way with us, and giving us useful things as presents, and that the firewaters is no more given us."

"I wish also to say something about our lands. My Indian brethren feel much in their hearts on this subject. We see that the country is getting full of the white people, and that the hunting will soon be destroyed. We wish our great father to save a sufficient quantity of land for ourselves and our children to live upon and cultivate. It is our desire that whatever lands may be marked out for us, to keep the right and title ourselves, and not be permitted to sell them, not to let any white man live on them unless he is recommended by our council, and gets a licence from our father the governor. But we wish to feel that we stand on our own lands that our fathers left us. I speak these words, because I have heard since I have been in this country, that the lands on which the Rice Lake Indians are settled, has been deeded to the New England Company to keep for them. I fear this will make them feel uneasy. I know that the Indians would feel better to keep their lands themselves, or that their great father should keep it for them, than to trust it with strangers that they know nothing about. Every man always feels best when he is in his own house and stands on his own ground."

To which Sir John Colborne replied as follows :—

The Indians will never find any difficulty in obtaining as much land as they can be induced to cultivate. Many of the tribes indeed are in possession of tracts of land too extensive for their present numbers. As certain families become civilized, and are able to manage their own property, lots might be secured to them by deeds.

*IX. During several years considerable success attended these efforts to civilize the Indians ; and, in addition to the zealous aid of the Bishop of Quebec, and of various missionaries, several Secretaries of State, and the Lords of the Treasury, expressly approved of what was doing.* It does not, we think, appear from any parliamentary documents or evidence, what led the Government to stop this satisfactory course of proceeding, which was fast producing a most remarkable change in the habits of the Indians. The plan in progress had some defects ; to support these good effects our system of law as to the Indians required improvement. General Darling declared that under the old system which still prevailed, "an Indian could not defend himself" in a court of Justice ; "nay, a whole tribe had not more power." (*House of Commons Papers, 1834, No. 617, p. 26.*)

The reformed  
system good,  
but defective.