

united with that of physical environment in checking the agricultural development of the Hurons and retaining them in the lower forms of labour and property. On the other hand these conditions of close intercourse with the white settlers—brought about by the reduced area of the Lorette holdings—transformed the home-life, and in the end materially improved the entire mode of living, of the Hurons.

The Iroquois community, settled at Caughnawaga, in the vicinity of Montreal, provides an interesting subject of comparison; for, though originally of the same social type as the Hurons, their evolution in recent times has been in quite the opposite direction.

In conclusion, the greatest weakness in the social organisation of the Hurons, and the one which should be remedied first, is that resulting from their property conditions. An ever-recurring theme of conversation among young and old at Lorette is the endless series of their grievances, all more or less connected with property rights: grievances against the Jesuits for having dispossessed them, or allowed them to be dispossessed, of their seigniority of Sillery; grievances against the British Government for not having restored them to their rights after the conquest; grievances against some of their deceased chieftains, for having laid hands, so they declared, on parts of the common land; grievances also against some of the present chiefs for using the common property for private ends; grievances against the Provincial Government for invading their hunting grounds; and, finally, grievances against the Federal Government and its agent for alleged maladministration of the reserves and the revenues therefrom. The limited extent and collective ownership of the holdings have had the effect, not only of helping to keep the Hurons away from agriculture and bringing about over-density of population in the village, but also of concentrating the minds and energies of individuals on petty common rights and privileges (to the detriment of initiative in more fruitful pursuits) and of breeding a harmful spirit of discontent.

It seems that much would be done for the betterment of the condition and the more normal development of these Hurons were it found possible to carry out the plan suggested by Sir James Kempt as far back as 1830, and further recommended by the Government Commissioners in 1847; that is, if land in the vicinity of Lorette and suitable for agriculture were, on proper terms, put at the disposal of the Hurons, on which some of them at least, under intelligent and kindly supervision, might be made to acquire proficiency in farming and aptness for the management of property. Thus would they become a less dependent, a more contented and prosperous community.