

before His Excellency the Governor General. It will be observed in this Declaration the Indians have said nothing about surrendering any more of their land; but I have no doubt if the Government should see fit to comply with their wish, and grant to them, and to each member of their families respectively, a deed for one hundred acres of their land, all that remains they would cheerfully surrender, especially if the proceeds of it, when sold, can be made available to aid them in settling soon upon their farms.

“There is nothing contained in the Declaration but what was suggested by themselves. By the term, ‘a free deed,’ they only mean, free of cost or charge for deed and land, not free to dispose of it, but they wish it secured to themselves and to their heirs in succession for ever.

“I also beg to state that, of the whole tribe, (I mean those who share in their annuities,) sixty-six cordially concur in the Declaration, and have signed it. Fourteen of the tribe were absent, and the other six, influenced, as they are, by a mercenary, mischievous man at Owen Sound, oppose it; and I have no doubt, under the same influence, they would oppose any other measure that might be proposed for the improvement of the Indians.

“In conclusion, I beg to state, that, having had ample opportunity of observing the wants of the Indians, and their improvement in civilization, I am satisfied that until each head of a family can possess a farm, which he can call his own, and be absolutely the owner of the team, and the imple-