

nor the result of the complaints which were made. Whatever were the precise words of the instructions, which went from this country, it appears from official printed reports, that orders were sent for the suspension of those very efforts on behalf of the Indians which form almost the only features in the case, which can be contemplated with anything like satisfaction.

The most important document in regard to this policy, is a message of Sir F. B. Head, to the legislature of Upper Canada, dated the 29th of January, 1838; and containing his despatches of the 20th of August, 1836, and others respecting the new systems substituted for that of Sir John Colborne and other officers, and Lord Glenelg's replies sanctioning the change.

The first despatch of Sir F. B. Head opens with the following paragraph:

"Your Lordship is aware that my predecessor, Sir John Colborne, *with a view to civilize and Christianize the Indians* who inhabit the country north of Lake Huron, *made arrangements for erecting certain buildings* on the great Manatoulin Island, and for delivering on this spot to the visiting Indians, their presents for the present year. The INSTRUCTIONS WHICH I RECEIVED FROM YOUR LORDSHIP TO COUNTERACT OR DEFER THESE ARRANGEMENTS, reached me too late to be acted upon; and on the 20th of November following, Sir Francis B. Head states that he had put a stop to the arrangement of Sir John Colborne at the Manatoulin Island."

It is not surprising, that with instructions of this kind from the colonial office, Sir F. B. Head should have employed his known activity and talent in endeavouring to reform the Indian department; but it is marvellous, that with the sentiment to which he gives expression in his despatches, from which quotations have already been made, he should have adopted the course which he did.

This course we give in his own words:—

"At the great Manatoulin Island, in Lake Huron, where I found about 1500 Indians, of different nations, assembled for their presents, the Chippewas and Ottawas, at a great council held expressly for the purpose, formally made over to me 23,000 islands. The Saugin Indians also voluntarily surrendered to me a million and a half of acres of the very richest land in Upper Canada. On proceeding to Amherstburg I assembled the Indians who occupy in that neighbourhood, a hunting-ground of rich land, six miles square, two-thirds of which they surrendered to me, on condition that one of the said two-thirds should be sold, and the proceeds thereof be invested for their benefit. The Moravian Indians, with whom I had also an interview have likewise agreed, for an annuity of £150, to surrender to me about six miles square of black rich land, situated on the banks of the Thames River. I need hardly observe, that I have just obtained for His Majesty's Government, from the Indians, an immense portion of most valuable land, which will doubtlessly produce, at no remote period, more than sufficient to defray the whole of the expenses of the Indians, and the Indian department, in this province."