

proval of the insurrection, were received from time to time, from Indian chiefs in several parts of the North-West Territories, Manitoba and Keewatin.

It is encouraging to learn, from the report of the Indian commissioner for these portions of the Dominion, that notwithstanding the excitement incident to the rebellion, educational progress among the Indian children was not seriously retarded in the North-West Territories, as shown by seven new schools having been opened during the year, and the increase generally in the number of children attending the schools. It is much to be regretted, however, that the industrial institution established at Battleford was pillaged by the half-breeds and Indians, and the building greatly damaged. So soon as the rebellion was quelled and the troops had been withdrawn from Battleford, this institution was reopened, the Indian children being glad to return to it. But, later, when the artillery was sent to that point, it had again to be vacated and given over to them, as no accommodation could be found elsewhere for the troops. The Department, however, succeeded in securing two vacant houses where the children are at present lodged and taught, until more suitable arrangements can be made. The two industrial institutions at High River, in the district of Alberta, and at Qu'Appelle, in the district of Assiniboia, have continued their operations. It is proposed, provided parliament will vote money for the purpose, to establish another institution of the same type in the vicinity of Long Lake, in the district of Assiniboia, and to select the Principle and other officers of the institution from the Presbyterian denomination.

Except on the reserves on the North Saskatchewan, a considerable quantity of land was brought under cultivation, and the Indians worked well. Especially was this the case on the reserves in the southern part of the district of Alberta, where the Indians generally remained steadily at work, as did those, also, in the western part of Manitoba, and a large majority of the Indians in the district of Assiniboia.

As elsewhere intimated, the Indians of Manitoba, and of the district of Keewatin, generally, had no sympathy with the insurgents, but denounced the rebellion in no measured terms.

AN INDIAN LEGEND.

HOW A MOHAWK INVASION WAS PREVENTED.

T. C. Kerr writes from the Indian reserve at Bear River to the *Digby Courier*:—Philip Siah died on Sunday, Nov. 1st, on the Indian reserve Bear river, aged 99 years and 8 months. There is an Indian legend about the Grand Falls of the St. John river that Philip used to tell at times about a large war party of Mohawks that made a descent on the upper St. John from Canada for the purpose of exterminating the Melicetes. He said they carried their canoes with them, and embarked on the St. John, below Edmuntson, from which point to the Grand Falls the river is perfectly smooth and deep. Not knowing the navigation they landed and seized two Mic-Mac squaws, whom they compelled to act as guides down the river. When night fell, the different canoes were tied together so that the

warriors might sleep, whilst a few only paddled the leading canoes under direction of the Mic-Mac women, whose boats were tied, the one on the right, the other on the left of the flotilla. They neared the falls, and still the squaws paddled on. The roar of the falling waters rose on the still night air. Those who paddled looked anxious; some few of the sleepers awoke. And to lull suspicion, the squaws told them of the great stream which here fell into the Walloos-took, the Indian name of the St. John, and still they paddled on. When they saw, at length, that the whole mass of canoes in the centre of the river was well entered on the smooth, treacherous current, which, looking so calm and gentle, was bearing them irresistibly to the falls, the two squaws leaped from their canoes into the water, and by swimming in the comparatively feeble stream near the banks, reached the shore in safety. The canoes being all tied together, the centre canoes drew the others on, and the whole body of the invaders plunged down the cataract and perished in the foaming waters of the deep gorge below. There are 700 Melicetes in Old Town, Maine, so the Melicetes have not forgotten the legend.

LACLEDE, the entertaining and instructive contributor to the *Montreal Gazette*, says:—"Anybody"—who, I happen to know, is somebody in both journalism and letters—wants further elucidation about the Indian scalp lock. Except in pictures he has never seen an Indian with his head shaved and he has seen many thousand Indians, including Crees, Chippeways, and Sioux, of the American woods and plains—Utes, Pintes and half a dozen tribes of the west coast. My respected correspondent adds:—"Is it a fiction of the boy's dearest friend, Fennimore Cooper, or is it an old fashion gone out like the pig tails at home?" To me the Indian scalplock is traditional in canvas and song. Benjamin West has it in his historical picture of the 'Death of Wolfe,' and West was a Pennsylvanian in the days when there were Indians around 'Fair Wyoming.' Fennimore Cooper knew what he was writing about, having been born and bred in the Mohawk Valley, even before the last of the Mohicans had disappeared. The latest conclusion of anthropologists is that all our American Indians are traceable to one identical stem, which is Mongoloid, thereby claiming kinship with the Chinese and Japanese, who all shave their hair, with pigtailed and other fanciful devices of the remaining lock. A further question arises. How did the Indians shave their heads, having neither scissors nor razor? Plucking is suggested. The process of epilation is painful, but it has been borne by as brave men as Uncas or Red Jacket. A custom of French gallantry was to undergo the operation over the whole body on the eve of wedlock. Witness the marriage of the Duke of Orleans with the lovely Madame de Montesson."

A very fatal epidemic of fever is at present prevalent on the Six Nation Reservation. A number of deaths have occurred and many are in a very low state. The resident physicians are doing all in their power to check the spread of the complaint.—*Brantford Courier*.

Correspondence.

FROM THE RESERVES.

TYENDINAGA RESERVE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A visit recently made to this Reserve by your correspondent and noted as observed. This tract contains several thousands of acres of beautiful farming land. Situated on the borders of the Bay of Quinte, immediately on the east of this is situated the beautiful town of Deseronto, where an extensive lumber business as well as other important industries are carried on, Rathbun & Co. being the principal firm. Many of our Indians in this tract are able farmers, competing favourably with their white neighbors. The population is computed to contain between nine and ten hundred souls. They are well advanced and exceedingly hospitable in their demeanor. A large majority of them are adherents to the English Church. They have two beautiful stone churches and four school houses, as well as one commodious school house. The expenses incurred in the erection of all these buildings were defrayed from the funds of these people. In the Province of Ontario, this band are considered to be one of the most liberal in their contributions in furthering the interest of their church and school. The Rev. J. A. Anderson (and his amiable family) is the resident clergyman on the Reserve. This rev. gentleman laboured among these people seventeen or eighteen years ago, and by a general request, was recalled to his old field of labour. Most assuredly every effort will be advanced by our people down there to enable their clergy and family to live in a manner becoming to their station in life, and would also sustain the dignity of our most loyal people, as they are acknowledged to be one of the most enlightened bands in this Province, as regards Indian interest. They are quite influential with the Ottawa Branch of the Indian Department. Very many of them are comfortable and living in beautiful frame and brick dwelling houses. Quite a number of young ladies on this tract are quite commendable organists and pianists. Nearly everything observed seems to be in a prosperous condition. Respecting the premises around the immediate vicinity of the Parsonage, it is simply grand, its views and scenery cannot be equalled anywhere in Canada, but the dwelling on the premises is in a deplorable condition, not a particle worthy of the location upon which it stands. Observer would urgently recommend the erection of a suitable dwelling, corresponding with the dignity of the location, and to the people to whom the property belongs. Many of the dignitaries of our country, as well as those from foreign countries, make it a rule to visit this place from time to time. In September next, there is to be a Mass Meeting and a Grand Picnic, in which the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald has consented to be present, together with some other hon. gentlemen of his party.

OBSERVER,

Mount Pleasant.