

is about all his handicraft. Fondness for stylish buggies, sleighs, and dress, are a marked feature in his character; all kinds of agricultural implements, and even sewing machines and organs, are amongst his purchases. The church and school-house are the two sources of healthful new life in the settlement, and they are fairly well attended. Our vices are found and practised more than our virtues. The Indian as he now is, is an unique character. In his dress and surroundings, partly ancestral and partly adopted, he is not by any means, in appearance, a ludicrous individual. He is an Indian still, but not what his fathers were. With the native language and many of the native habits and modes of life; but incorporated with them, those which he has *adopted*, the combination makes a character—an individuality—all his own. I shall never forget the shock I experienced the first time I saw an Indian driving a yoke of oxen. The absence of the Indian dress and outfit, and the presence of the oxen, was a novel presentation to me. An Indian of a new type was before me. When the Indian language, tribal government, and common land is abandoned, a new step will be taken in the evolution of his manhood. What that manhood is to be, is a question for us to help him to solve.

CHAS. E. BOLTON.

Obituary.

JOHN WIGHTMAN, TORONTO.

John Wightman, senior, for very many years a deacon in Zion Church, Toronto, died on 5th March. A more extended obituary notice will appear in our next number.

HIRAM GENTLE.

Another pioneer has gone; this time it is good old Hiram Gentle, of Franklin Centre. Not a few of the readers of the INDEPENDENT will pause in sympathy as they read that he is dead; for he was well and widely known, and known only to be loved. He was born in the State of Vermont, in 1799; his father shortly afterwards removing to Canada on account of the anti-British feeling then existing in the States. In 1808 the family settled down on the homestead in Huntingdon

County, then a trackless forest; and there Hiram Gentle lived till the other day. He was converted under the preaching of Rev. Mr. Nall, 1829 or 1830. Two years afterwards, in 1832, a Congregational church was formed at Franklin Centre, with Mr. Nall for pastor, and Hiram Gentle as first deacon. In this office the latter continued till his death; although, owing to paralysis, he has taken no active part in church matters for the last five years. After more than sixty-five years' life together, Mr. Gentle buried his wife two years ago. Since then he has been as he often said, simply waiting for his own to come. He sank painlessly and quietly to a sleep on Feb. 9th last.

Not many men are able to look back upon a life so long and so faithfully lived. No other man in the County of Huntingdon had personal recollections of the war of 1812. He was called the "father of the county." For fifty-seven years he served as deacon to the church; and all agree that he did his work well. He was universally beloved. Many a time has the writer heard his neighbours say, "I have never heard a word said against Hiram Gentle." His trust in God was strong, and his hope assured. Now he has the crown which is given to the faithful servant of Him whom he so faithfully served. His funeral drew together a large concourse of sincere mourners.—*Com.*

DR. HYDE, OF STRATFORD.

The Congregational Church in Stratford has lost one of its warmest supporters and best workers, in the demise, on March 4th, of John Hyde, Esq., M.D. He was a native of the County Tyrone, Ireland, and studied for his profession in Glasgow; having among his classmates and fellow-graduates the celebrated African explorer, the late David Livingstone.

He came to this country, and settled in Embro, where he had an extensive practice for a period of eight years, and was greatly esteemed by a wide circle of acquaintances. In 1849 he moved to Stratford, chiefly that he might have the privilege of being connected with the church of his choice. He cast in his lot with the infant cause, and through all the vicissitudes of the church, (and they were many and various), he stood firmly by his principles.