

[Document issued in London in relation to the Lake of the Woods Mission.]

A PROPOSAL TO FORM A NEW INDIAN SETTLEMENT.

A meeting was held at the residence of Dr. Hodgkin, 35 Bedford Square, London, on Saturday, the 12th of November, for the purpose of hearing a statement from Captain W. Kennedy, formerly commander of one of the Arctic Expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin, respecting a proposal to establish an Indian Settlement at the Lake of the Woods, British North America.

The Chair was taken by R. N. Fowler, Esq., Treasurer of the Aborigines' Protection Society, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Church Missionary Society, and the meeting was attended by the following, among other gentlemen:—Samuel Christy, Esq., formerly M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyne; Henry Christy, Esq.; Dr. Hodgkin; Dr. King; Robert Forster, Esq.; the Rev. W. Taylor Jones, M.A., Queen's College Cambridge, Vice-President of the Royal College of Preceptors; Gerrard Ralston, Esq., Consul-General for Liberia; Messrs A. K. Isbister, John Mayfield, John Prior, Richard Smith, J. Stewart, F. W. Chesson, &c. &c.

Captain Kennedy commenced by observing, that in view of the important political changes impending over the territories in North America, formerly held by the Hudson's-Bay Company, owing to the withdrawal of their Charter, the condition of the various aboriginal tribes inhabiting those immense regions had become a subject of the most serious consideration for the Christian and philanthropist. The dangers to which the aborigines were exposed were too obvious, from the history of the race in Canada and the United States, to require to be dwelt upon. It was not merely the diminution of their numbers which was to be apprehended from the overwhelming pressure of the white population, who might be expected to be attracted to the country: it was the destructive vices which civilization brings in its train, and, above all, the free introduction of spirituous liquors, which were even more to be feared. The evils under which the Indians had already been suffering for many years past, under the rule of the Hudson's-Bay Company, might be expected to be aggravated when both the Company and other traders became competitors in the fur-trade, each endeavouring to overreach the other, and both combining to overreach and demoralize the Indian by the unlimited distribution of spirituous liquors, destitute as he is of a friend to counsel or protect him. The evidence laid before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Hudson's-Bay territories had brought to light the appalling destitution and misery which existed, and the rapid depopulation which had been going on among the natives of the country situated between the frontier settlements of Canada and the Red-River colony. Having, while engaged in the service of the Board of Trade of Toronto, and in that of the Canadian Government, in the endeavour to establish a mail communication between Upper Canada and the colony at Red River, been drawn repeatedly into communication and intercourse with these tribes, the dangers which threaten them at this particular juncture, and to which he had already referred, had been very forcibly impressed on his mind; nor had they failed to present themselves to the minds of the more intelligent of the natives themselves. One important tribe, situated almost midway between Lake Superior and the Lake Winnipeg, had addressed to him, after a formal, council held expressly for the purpose, a communication expressive of