

name highly respected, and an ardent desire generally prevalent among the Hydahs to participate in the great reforms you have been chiefly instrumental in creating among the Tsimshean Indians.

Personally, I wish you every success, and I shall not fail to acquaint the Honorable Superintendent-General with the *loyal* feeling and great progress in civilization I saw so fully exhibited among the Indians during my brief and pleasant sojourn at Metlakahla. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) J. W. POWELL,  
Indian Superintendent.

—*Com.*

### THE INDIAN QUESTION.

From the *Daily Colonist*, Victoria, B. C., 1886.

TO THE EDITOR : On examining the length of the documents I submitted to the Indian Department last year, at Ottawa, on Indian affairs, I feel it would be unfair to ask you to publish them *in extenso*. But at the request of friends, and by your kind permission, I will, instead, lay before the public a brief review of the questions at issue. First, a few words on Indian land interests. The matter stands thus. Either the aborigines have rights in the land, or they have not. All British provinces, we are told, with the exception of British Columbia—the latest born—have unmistakably settled the question in favor of the aborigines. Treaties, we know, have been made, and do now exist, between several governments and Indians. These treaties are confessedly for the extinguishing of Indian claims on lands, and therefore imply that the Indians have rights to extinguish. For governments to make treaties with Indians to extinguish their rights—if rights they had none—would be absurd.

British Columbia, by refusing to make treaties with Ind-