

THE INDIAN.

Single Copies, each:]
FIVE CENTS.

Where are our Chiefs of old? Where our Heroes of mighty name?
The fields of their battles are silent—scarce their mossy tombs remain!—OSSIAN.

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IN ADVANCE.

VOL. I.

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NO. 1.

SALUTATORY.

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said
This is my own, my native land!”

It is to be hoped that not one of the descendants of the Aborigines of North America has a “soul so dead,” who has never breathed the words of the poet and who cannot proudly say with him: “This is my own, my native land!”

True it is that through wars, through altered circumstances, through national and political changes, by reason of treaties made by the Indians with those whom they chose as their allies, the Indians are not now the dominant power in the country; that by treaty and by cession they have surrendered rights, that civilization might be advanced and their condition improved.

Happily the Indians of Canada, with a devotion to their own interest, and with a commendable submission to prevailing circumstances, met those who are now their fellow-countrymen, and have arrived at such a mutual and satisfactory understanding as to their relations to each other, that the Indians can now fairly say to their former antagonists, “Peace be with you, Good will to all men.” The animosity between us is now spent, and Indian and white go hand in hand, each aiding the other in the development of the country's resources to the mutual advancement of each, and, in the grand endeavor to attain the chief end of man, “To glorify God and enjoy Him forever!”

Upon sending out the first number of a newspaper it is usual for the editor to tell his readers the reason he has for printing such a journal.

This we will try to do in as few words, and in as plain language as we can reasonably use.

It will be the first object of this paper to strive, with what means and ability we may have, to educate the Indians and by advice and suggestion, to elevate them step by step to the same position in the social, agricultural, and commercial world, which is now enjoyed by their white brethren.

We are well aware that the white population has the advantage over us of many centuries in the march of progress and civilization. We appreciate the example set by them to us in their many proper habits and customs. The principal changes they have introduced are—Christian Religion, Agriculture and Industry. These, then, will be strongly advocated and urged by THE INDIAN.

But the whites along with the good, learned

bad habits and customs of which the aborigines many years ago knew nothing. These it will be the duty of THE INDIAN to point out and warn our people against, viz. The sins of intemperance and immorality; two crimes which have, almost altogether, been introduced by the whites.

It is our intention to give our readers news from all the principal Reserves in North America and especially Canada. For this purpose we will endeavour to get educated Indians throughout the country to send us letters, telling us what is going on in their neighborhood, and we will also give you the principal news of the world in a short form.

It is also our desire to present our readers with a full and true meaning of the laws of this country in regard to Indians. Under this head the Dominion “Indian Act” will be explained, the Indian Advancement Act will be fully discussed and The Franchise Act, as far as Indians are concerned, will be made plain to our readers.

To do this we have obtained the promised help of two of our best legal gentlemen who will furnish papers on these subjects.

Our columns will be open to correspondence upon this and other subjects affecting the welfare of the Indians. Our means for obtaining information upon the financial and other conditions of the various bands are ample, and it will afford the editor pleasure to answer any reasonable question upon these subjects, if it is within his power to do so.

Biographical sketches of noted Indians will be an important feature of the paper. With this the first number we commence a sketch of the life of Thayendanagea by Ke-che-ah-gah-me-qua, which we think our readers will find reliable, interesting, and well written.

The science of archæology, that is, the study of that which is old, which may throw light upon the ancient history of the aborigines of America, will have a department in THE INDIAN, devoted specially to it. Several of the best writers and men most learned in this science, have already signified their intention of contributing to our columns. It will be our endeavor, with what influence we may possess, to advocate the establishment of an Archæological Society and Museum. Indian History, and more especially that of the various bands of Canada, will have its place and our attention. The editor possesses one of the largest private Indian libraries in Canada, containing nearly all the principal works on Indian history, and he expects to be

ably assisted by noted writers upon this subject.

In Religion THE INDIAN will be non-sectarian, for we acknowledge that all christian denominations have had our future and present welfare deeply at heart, and that it is through the teaching of their missionaries that we are now able to worship the “Great Spirit,” not directly as before, but through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It will be our object, then, to inform our readers of the work these missionaries are doing in the Indian Reserves and by all means in our power to encourage them in their efforts to christianize our people.

Agriculture will be assisted by original contributions and by extracts from rural papers.

Reports of important meetings of Indians in Council or otherwise, articles upon hunting, fishing and the Game Laws, with a market report of furs, fish and game and a continued story upon an Indian subject, will give additional interest to the paper.

It is our intention to encourage the liberal maintenance of Manual Labor Schools already established, both by assistance from the funds of the Bands deriving benefit from such institutions, as well as by appropriations from the educational Department of the Government. We will also advocate the establishment of additional schools of this nature when found practicable. As it is very desirable that Indian youths who show an aptitude for study, should be placed in a position to obtain a higher education, we shall be pleased to encourage any scheme which might successfully carry out the desired object.

And now, that we have made our law to the public, let us be permitted to bespeak of them that they will, in a spirit of generosity, deal fairly with this, our effort to advance our fellow-men and promote their interests; and let our patrons believe—as we are sure they will—that we are actuated only by a desire to promote the welfare of a large community, which, until now, has not had the advantage of a medium of their own through which they could be heard.

And finally, feeling confident that we can accomplish all we anticipate: the advancement in christian religion, in morals, in education and in material prosperity of the Indian tribes, we are satisfied that our efforts will meet with due appreciation from our readers.

Meanwhile, we beg to subscribe ourselves,

The humble servant of our people,

THE INDIAN.