

# THE INDIAN.

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

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## NAMES AND NAMES.

DAVID BOYLE, TORONTO.

Notwithstanding Shakespeare's dictum regarding the unimpaired fragrance of a rose despite its name, it is a fact that to many people names count for a good deal. In the dubbing of children some parents affect scriptural, some royal, some foreign, some old and latterly disused, and some traditional and family names. But in the designations given to places, the prevailing weakness of humanity becomes painfully evident—so very painfully evident that had Solomon lived in our day, country and generation he might have exclaimed with ten-fold greater emphasis than he did, "Vanity of vanities—all is vanity." We are surrounded by Smithville, and Tupperville, and Switzerville, and Sheppardville, and Knowlesville, and Moodyville, and Hagersville, and others similar or worse abominations of the "ville" family. Then there is another family of "vales." As samples of these, surely Fergusonvale and Henryvale are enough. But we have also "tons" and "towns" chiefly connected with the name of some great man who founded these celebrated centres of population, as Copleston, Farmerston, Ploydtown and Morristown. Of "burgs" too there is a plethora, and after the power of inventive nomenclature "can no further go" resource is had to the adoption of Old World names either in their native purity, or with that highly original prefix "New," giving us among others New London, New Edinburgh, New Dublin, New Zealand and New Ireland—all post offices (as well as those previously named) in the Dominion. Why, away down in Queen's County, New Brunswick, they actually have a New Jerusalem!

Time would fail to go over the list of vagaries, enacted by those to whom has been committed the "christening" of places in this New World. The calendar has been ransacked for the names of saints; and North, South, East, West, Upper, Lower, Middle, and even the very numerals have been tortured in the paucity of human wit to supply a handle for the name of some locality or of some prominent post office, kept it may be by the shoemaker of the hamlet whose population all told may not exceed a score!

Why, it may be asked, should we not immortalize Brown, and Jones? Why not import the names of the old land? Why not invoke the blessings of the saints? Why not call a place anything we please? Well, there are very many reasons that might be adduced in reply to these queries, but the one that appears to have most force, is that in a large number of instances the new-fangled, hybrid combinations, or old world misnomers, have been made to displace

some beautiful, some characteristic aboriginal appellation, merely to gratify the whim of some vain nobody, or because said nobody thought he could afford to regard contemptuously what was nothing but a savage Indian polysyllable. How lamentable the result! We now have confusion and namby-pambyism where there ought to be order and nationalism.

When mention is made of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Boston, Halifax, Glasgow, Greenock, Delhi, or Lucknow, we may have to imagine whether the place referred to is in this country or in the other hemisphere, and to such an absurd length have the good people of our Canadian London gone, that they have Convent Garden Market, Pall Mall, and Picadilly!! By a narrow escape Toronto superseded York and Ottawa Bytown, and there would have been much cause for gratitude had all the other towns and villages in this country been utilized to perpetuate euphonious and significant Indian designations.

When we look at the names of our lakes and rivers we have to regret that many of them have shared the same fate. Simcoe (Lake) supplanted the older form—Toronto, or Deonda, and as a matter of course Deer Lake, Pigeon Lake, Burnt Lake and many others have displaced the aboriginal title. At worst, the new names of most of these beautiful water-stretches are not so bad, as if they had been commemorative of some defunct Tomkins, or Macnab, or O'Grady. Although in the case of our rivers we still possess the Saugeen, the Madawaska, the Garafraxa, the Petawawee and some others, still the rechristening fiend has effected his wicked purposes with the Severn, the Thames, the Grand, the Humber, the Don, the Trent, the Moir, the St. Lawrence, and many more.

That the "Falls" have escaped the Europeanizing craze so long is really marvellous—perhaps the day will yet come when they shall be known as Hennepin's Sault, or Dufferin's Tumble, because somebody may think that some other body should be commemorated!

TORONTO, Jan. 26, 1886.

## A PLEA FOR THE INDIAN.

Washington, D. C. Jan. 23.—The National Indian Defence Association took strong ground last night against the contemplated changes in the Indian Territory. Gen. J. W. Denver, President of the Association, said:

A crisis is upon the Indians, formerly when dispossessed of their homes they could go further west and find homes. Now there remains no unoccupied territory. They must hold the reservations they have or become homeless paupers. This association was organized with a view to

their protection against those who would deprive them of their present lands, and for the purpose also of promoting their education and civilization.

Hon A. J. Willard, ex-Chief Justice of South Carolina, said: No policy yet formulated is perfect. We are endeavoring to gather facts which will enable us to arrive at a correct Indian policy. Till this is done we oppose any radical change in the situation of the Indian. We ask al. friends of the Indians to aid us in this matter.

Col. G. W. Hargains an educated Chickasaw; Chief John Jumper, of the Seminoles, and Col. Grayson, of the Creeks, made eloquent speeches in the interest of their people. These Indians referred to the circumstances attending the removal of the people from their former homes in the older States of the South to their present country west of the Mississippi. Said one:

We were sent to a wilderness because the whites wanted our country in the States. Now we have developed the new country and built for ourselves homes in it, and the whites want that. We are doing well. We are happy and prosper. We are working out the problem of civilization. We have schools and churches and governments patterned after your own. Our lands are patented to tribes, and our people hold it in common. We all have names. There are no paupers among us. We never see anybody begging for pennies in our country as we do here. Let us alone. Don't break us up. Don't force us to change our policy. There are bills before Congress now to do that. We look hopefully to this association for help in preventing the passage of these bills.—*Cherokee Advocate.*

HAGERSVILLE.—*A Laudable Enterprise.*—A Indian Publishing Company at Hagersville, has commenced the weekly publication of a newspaper called THE INDIAN devoted chiefly to the interests of our red fellow subjects. Dr. Jones, one of themselves, is editor. He is a skilful practitioner in medicine, and for many years a delegate to the Synod of Niagara. Dr. Jones, a few years ago, we remember, successfully urged the claims of the Ontario Indians to the full right and privilege of citizenship, in exercising their choice of voting at all our elections. The first number of THE INDIAN commends itself by its excellence for both white and red readers. The power of the press is mighty, and when judiciously wielded, we may hope for a powerful impulse for good, as in the case among the Indians of Ontario, who have been steadily advancing in many respects, of late years. Their progress is very largely due to those missionaries who fifty years ago and more, began to labor among them under the New England Society, (a society in England of long standing), specially directed in promoting the welfare of Indian tribes in this part of Ontario.—*The Churchman.*