

limited education, enlarge and develop our thinking capacities by reading good books and periodicals. Let us ever remember the words of the noble poet, "There's no royal road to learning."

CONTRACTS.

The remark has been frequently made in my hearing, with regard to tenders for contracts, "It is not of much use for anyone to tender unless he is a chief." Now, if any such impression should be abroad, it is a pity, and pains should be taken to remove it. It is true that most of the successful tenders this year have been made by chiefs; but surely the reason of that must be because other men do not avail themselves of the opportunity. I know that it is the general custom in councils and such like bodies that contracts are let to non officials or those who are not members of the board. In the case of the Six Nations' council, composed as it is of so many members, such a rule would no doubt exclude many of our best mechanics and contractors. But I would like to see some more of our enterprising young men tendering for and securing some of these contracts, as it would encourage them to advance; and it would be a great mistake if the idea should get abroad that to secure a contract it is almost necessary to be a member of the council.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Somehow or other I have been very fortunate indeed to be permitted to be present at several Christmas tree entertainments. Without any hesitation I can pronounce them in advance of late years. In all probability we owe it to a change in the general programme from speaking to that of readings, recitations and dialogues, which makes it as instructive and more enjoyable. It was very amusing to see and hear the little children attending board school No. 5 give their readings, recitations, dialogues and singing, more so when we feel assured there is ability in the rising generation if proper care and interest are taken in the children. Much credit is due to all who so valiantly worked to make these Christmas trees a success.

PEEK-A-BOO.

Oneida.

Christmas trees have been the go all over the Reserve during the Christmas and New Years season, and this section was in the procession—at the tail end, I believe. This tree was held in the church on Wednesday evening, January 14th. The tree looked beautiful decorated as it was with the usual fruit that makes the little ones' hearts jump and their eyes twinkle with pleasure. Books, toys, mufflers, caps, hats, etc., besides the sweets, hung in profusion, and when the candles were lighted the tree was a pretty sight to the little folks. Speeches of course had to be made after the proceeding had been opened with a service of song by the missionary, sacred songs sung by the missionary and his two boys. The distribution was of course the feature in the proceedings. Not only were the

children of the Sunday school remembered, but the pagan children who were present were not omitted. Then refreshments were served out in baskets to every man, woman and child present by Mr. G. R. Loft and his band of workers. After many words of good cheer and sound advice and good singing, both in English and Mohawk, the meeting was dismissed with the benediction.

Mr. Harry Loft has left us again and gone to Boston, the city of culture, to titillate the hearts of the Bostonians with the music of his violin. More power to your elbow, Harry.

La grippe has taken his departure, but measles is now the cry around here. There are a number of cases some of a serious character. If parents would only look after the little ones who are afflicted with this disease, and rigidly keep them in bed or within doors for a short time, there need be no serious consequences as the disease in itself is harmless though annoying.

Mud and rain, alternating with frost, are still the order of the day here.

A number of our people here are still in the habit of imbibing the strong water when they go down to Caledonia, and the hotel keepers of that burg are so deficient in humane feelings, and their greed for money so large that for the sake of getting the Indian's last five cent piece they will give him the liquor if he were to drop on the roadside and perish from exposure that night. It is true no Indian has been found in that condition near the village, but there are many whose deaths are without the shadow of a doubt attributable to having been exposed after drinking in Caledonia. There is one about to be buried this week, besides those who have become physical wrecks. It is pitiable to think that to bring the offenders to justice one has to depend upon these poor slaves of the bottle to do so. No wonder convictions are so rare.

St. John's.

The annual Christmas tree in connection with the Sunday school here was held in the church on the evening of Wednesday, January 10th. The tree, as usual, was well loaded, and the children—some 60 of them—spent a very pleasant time, owing to the very praiseworthy efforts of Miss Kerby, organist, and her staff of faithful workers. The missionary, Mr. Bearfoot, presided, and opened the proceedings with a short service. The roads were very unfavorable for getting about, but still there was a large number present. The time before the distribution of the presents was spent in the hearing of the report of the school by the missionary. Three of the children attended 52 of the 53 Sundays of the year. The report on the whole was a very favorable one. Then followed addresses by several of the people, among them being a visitor from the Lewiston reserve, New York, himself an Indian, and a full-fledged graduate of one of the medical schools in the States, Dr. Philip Johnson. The addresses were interspersed with music by the choir

and the doctor, Mrs. and Miss Hill and Mr. Garlow, also from Lewiston. Our visitors were a host in themselves in the assistance they rendered. We hope to have them again.

FUNERAL.

Little Willie Anderson, son of one of the church officials, was buried here on Saturday, January 20th. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have the sincere sympathy of the whole community in their loss.

COUNCIL NOTES.

Council House, Oshkewen.

Feb. 6th, 1894.

General council was held to-day, and was opened in due form by Chief William Buck, one of the fire-keepers. Present E. D. Cameron, Esq., visiting supt., Wm Reep, Esq., interpreter, and forty-six chiefs.

After communications from the Department of Indian Affairs were read by the visiting superintendent, the following chiefs were deputed a committee on disputes by the council:—Isaac Dordaxer, jr., George Key, Philip Hill, Jacob S. Johnson, Joseph Green and Benjamin Carpenter, clerk.

The council decided to appoint David Johnson guardian for the children of the late Samuel Longboat.

In the matter of Simon Jonathan, who claimed a part of the south half of lot No. 18, concession 3, Tuscarora, the council re-confirmed their former decision given some ten years ago that Jonathan had no right to the land.

The council unanimously confirmed the quit claim and settlement between Chas. Davis and Martha Green on the west half of the north half of lot No. 20, con. 3 of Tuscarora, the property of the late Chas. Davis. The council were pleased with the settlement arrived at by the heirs, and hope that this will be an example to others, and thus avoid coming to the council.

The council asked the visiting supt. to explain in regard to the revenue derive from the following national properties viz., stone quarries, residence of the Miller shingle factory, Sour Springs and Sour Spring lot and pile driver, also in respect of the Forest bailiffs, all of which he explained satisfactorily, with the exception that he did not know the conditions by which the Sour Spring was held by Moses Turkey, and that he did not know that the council had a shingle machine, whereupon the council authorized the visiting supt. to inquire into these matters, and to report as soon as possible, as some revenue may be derived from the Sour Springs and the shingle factory.

The council refused to recognize the account of John Froman against the estate of the late Moses Carpenter, as Carpenter did a great deal of work for the said John Froman while he lived with him, besides having helped to supply provisions for the family.

The council voted \$2 to Mary Isaac, who is said to be sick and in want.

The following quit claims were presented to the council to be confirmed:

Quit claim of Betsy Staats and Samp-