

THE CANADIAN INDIAN.

VOL. I.

JUNE, 1891.

No. 9.

THE FUTURE OF OUR INDIANS.

(PAPER NO. 4).

IN this fourth and last paper I would like to offer a few suggestions as to what appears to me will be the best way to deal with our Indians in the future. As I said in my first paper on the subject, my ideas may be crude, visionary, impracticable ; still I think there can be no harm in offering them, especially as it must surely be universally admitted that the system at present in vogue is but of a temporary character and must sooner or later give place to something of a more permanent form. It can surely never be thought that the Indian Department as it at présent exists, with all its expensive machinery, its agents on every reserve, its farm instructors and other servants, is to continue for ever. It cannot be that the wild Indians of the North are for ever to receive the weekly rations of beef and flour, or that the more civilized Indians of Ontario are to be kept penned up on reserves, receive annuities, and be treated as children. Sooner or later this system must either come to an end, or it must at least undergo some great modification. These Indians, who are at present kept under tutelage as the wards of the Government, have either to arrive at maturity and be recognized as men and women, or else they must be improved off the face of the earth and cease to exist. The latter is not likely, and surely cannot be wished for by any person possessing a grain of humanity in his breast. If,