

" I fear that it is impossible to question the accuracy of the view which you have taken of the consequences resulting to the Indians from intercourse with white men ; nor can it be disputed that we are bound by the strongest obligations, to adopt the most effectual means of repairing the wrongs which we have inflicted on them, and of promoting their future welfare. I should most reluctantly yield to the conviction, that, in the prosecution of this object, we must abandon the hope of imparting to the Indians the blessings of christianity, on the ground, that those blessings were necessarily more than counterbalanced by the evils with which they have hitherto been unhappily associated. I should rather be disposed to attribute those evils to the counteracting tendency which, under unfavourable circumstances, ordinary intercourse with white men has had on the instruction and example of christian teachers, than to any inherent inaptitude in the Indians for the reception of a religion, in itself peculiarly qualified to elevate the character and raise the standard of morality.

" One great advantage which, among others, I should venture to anticipate, from the adoption of your suggestion, of interposing a considerable space between the country occupied by White men and the Indian settlements, is the facility which such an arrangement might offer to the inculcation, by properly qualified Teachers of the doctrines and precepts of christianity, without interference with the ordinary habits of life hitherto pursued by the Indians, and apart from the deteriorating influence of a general intercourse with another race of men."

" In my despatch of the 5th October last, I conveyed to you His Majesty's approbation of the measures which you had taken for setting the three tribes of Indians, therein referred to, on the Great Manitoulin island, and for procuring the cession, to His Majesty, of the large territory hitherto held by them as hunting grounds. Convinced, as I am, of the benevolent feelings which you entertain towards this race, and of the advantages which they may derive from the adoption of your scheme : I'm now to express to you His Majesty's approbation of the further engagements which you have entered into with the Huron and Moravian Indians, and of the arrangements which you have made for the future distribution of presents at the Manitoulin island only, instead of the various posts hitherto kept up for that purpose.

" Your suggestion that the expense of Indian Presents should hereafter be defrayed out of the sale of the lately ceded lands appears to be very judicious.

" In the hands of the British Government, and subject to the existing regulations as to the disposal of public lands in the Colonies, these lands hitherto of little, if any value to the Indians, may not only form an important acquisition to the Province, but may at the same time supply the means of benefitting the original occupiers of the soil to a far greater extent than has as yet been practicable.

" The proceeds of the sales of these lands would, under ordinary circumstances, be included in the casual and territorial revenues, the cession of which in return for a civil list has been already offered to the Provincial Legislature, but under the peculiar circumstances attending their cession, they must be held subject to the charge of providing to the utmost practicable extent for the wants and improvement of the Indians, and in communicating to the Council and Assembly, the result of your recent negotiations, you will, of course, distinctly apprise those bodies of the object to which it is intended to apply the sums derived from these lands, or so much of them as may be required for this purpose, considering the great benefit accruing to the Province from the acquisition of these extensive and fertile tracts, I cannot doubt that this arrangement will meet with universal acquiescence.

" In regard to the visiting Indians I approve of your proposition to make to them the formal communication that the presents will be discontinued to them after three years ; but in regard to the nature of those Presents during this interval, I would observe that, although I should be extremely reluctant to make any change which would be severely felt by these persons, yet if it should appear that the muskets and ammunition supplied to them by His Majesty's Government are directly turned against the inhabitants of the United States, I should feel myself precluded from sanctioning the issue of those articles for the future. I am not, however, aware of any representations having been made by the Government of the United States of inconvenience or injury having resulted from the present practice, and I should not be disposed to direct any change for so short a period without clear proof of its necessity.

A true extract,

(Signed)

J. JOSEPH.

*EXTRACT from a Despatch addressed to His Excellency Sir Francis Head by Lord Glenelg, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 20th February, 1837.*

" With reference to my Despatch of the 20th ultimo, No. 131, I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information, the copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Treasury and this department, on the subject of your late arrangements respecting the Indians in Upper Canada."

A true extract.

(Signed)

J. JOSEPH.