

enthusiastic in their desire to accept the white man's methods, to blot out their own nationality, and to wave aloft over their villages either the Stars and Stripes of America or the Union Jack of Canada, has been proved not unfrequently of late on both sides of the line by whispered reports gleaned at their council meetings. The idea of enfranchisement, which in the eyes of white men is esteemed so great a boon, to the Indian appears to have but little charm. And only lately we heard that some of our most civilized Indians were appealing to Government to have their chieftainship made hereditary once more, instead of elective as at present. Then again—across the border, what is this "Messiah craze" that has spread with such wonderful rapidity among the Indians from north to south and from east to west? What a readiness there seems to be on their part to go back to the old ways again, to resume their old customs and their old superstitions, if only the chance were given them. Sometimes it seems to me that all we are doing for them—educating their children, dressing them in white men's clothing, making them talk English, teaching them to pride themselves in being like white people—is a mere veneer; that underneath there is still the love of the wild, roaming life; that hidden beneath the outward Christian life are still the remnants of dark heathen superstition. Certain it is, whatever may be said to the contrary, that the Indians, as a people, do not draw towards the white people; and that the white people, as a people, do not draw towards the Indians.

What, then, is to be the future of the Indians? Will the day ever come that the Indians as a people will have so utterly and entirely lost their own distinct nationality, their own distinct peculiarities of habit, taste, character, as to mingle freely with the white people, and become one with them? It does not look much like it at present. There are indeed some few isolated cases of Indians who have received a good education, developed talent according to the white man's standard, and taken their position in the midst of us, some as doctors, some as employees in the Indian Department, some as ministers of the Gospel; but these, it must be acknowledged, are exceptional cases; and if they have been received at all into society, it is probably because they have become united in marriage with a "pale face," and have thus identified themselves permanently with the Anglo-Saxon race. The idea has been prevalent of late that the true way to deal with the Indians, and indeed the only method at all likely to be followed with success, is to take their children while young, remove them altogether from their parents, keep them five or six years in a boarding school, teach them entirely in English, let them forget their old barbaric tongue and their old ways and customs; and become, in fact, thoroughly Anglicized. And this idea has been still further improved upon within the last few years; the newest idea of all, and one which is already being acted upon to a considerable extent