

We have reason to believe that memorials in the colonial office will verify this statement.

The River Credit case. XIX. The case of the Indians on the river Credit is another that deserves a more minute investigation than we have means of giving. Such has been their disquiet respecting their lands, that they have more than once sent an express messenger to London for security.

The progress of these Indians has been set forth in the documents already cited. His misrepresentation of the state of the Indians of Upper Canada has been illustrated in the foregoing account of the river Credit people, taken from the parliamentary papers.

In 1837 they sent a special messenger, P. Jones, to England, to appeal on this and other subjects. This appeal produced the following despatch:

Lord Glenelg to Sir George Arthur, Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c.

Downing Street, 27th March, 1838.

SIR,—The Indian Missionary, Mr. Peter Jones, and the Secretary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, Mr. Alder, have lately been in communication with me, relative to the application preferred by the former on behalf of certain of the Indian tribes in Upper Canada, for title-deeds of the lands which they now hold under the crown. I enclose herewith, for your information, copies of the *letters which they have addressed to me*.

I need scarcely state that, in considering these letters, I have not failed to advert to the opinions expressed in Sir Francis Head's despatches of the 18th October and 8th November last. I am of course sensible how much weight is due to Sir F. Head's opinion on such a subject; and with my present information, I should much doubt the expediency of adopting to the letter the propositions contained in the accompanying letter. Yet I must think that some measure may be taken for removing the uneasiness which is said to exist among the Indians in regard to their land. With this view I should propose that, at the first general meeting of the Indians, an assurance should be conveyed to them, in the most formal and solemn manner, that her Majesty's government will protect their interests, and respect their rights, in regard to the land on which they are settled.

It might be explained to them, that for the sake of themselves and their posterity, it would not be advisable to deliver into their hands the title-deeds of their property; but that those title-deeds should be drawn up in writing, and recorded in the office of the commissioner of crown lands, of the fact of which record any person or persons deputed on their behalf may convince themselves by inspection; that these title-deeds, so recorded, should be considered by the government as equally binding with any other similar documents; and that if the Indians, or any other individual among them, should at any time desire to sell or exchange their land, the government would be ready to listen to their applications, and to take such measures as should be most consistent with their welfare and feelings.

It appears to me that if a measure of this nature were adopted, any reasonable apprehension in the minds of the Indians would be allayed, while the danger of their becoming the victims of deception would be avoided. It would also tend to draw closer the connexion which unites