## CHIEF GEORGE H. M. JOHNSON.

(ONWANONSYSHON.)

His Life and Work Among the Siz Nations.

## BY HORATIO HALE.

The chief, now firmly established in his new office, set about the measures which he had long had in view for the benefit of his people. The first and most important of these was to get rid of the gangs of white ruffians who then hung about the Reserve, corrupting and impoverishing

the Indians by the illicit sale of liquor, and by combining with the more ign orant among them to rob the Reserve ofits valu able store oftimber.



It was an CHIEF GEORGE H. M. JOHNSON. evil of long standing, against which all efforts had hitherto seemed fruitless. It remained to be seen what could be done by an efficient superintendent and a zealous native warden. One prosecution after another, leading usually to fines and imprisonment, was brought against the dealers in illicit whiskey. At length they became thoroughly alarmed. Their active and resolute pursuer must be disposed of. One day in January, 1865, two men encountered the chief walking alone. While one of them drew his attention by some remarks the other suddenly struck him on the head from behind, with the heavy butt of a whip. He fell insensible, and as he lay was beaten in a most brutal manner, resulting in fractured bones and internal inturies. His assailants believed him to be dead, or at least disabled for life. After he was brought home, he lay for five days unconscious. A long illness followed, but his strong constitution finally triumphed. He recovered, but bore till his death the disfigurement and the enfeebling effects of his injuries. Of the criminals one fled and escaped; the other served a term of five years in the penitentiary.

No sooner had the chief regained sufficient strength to enable him to resume his duties than he renewed his crusade against the law-breakers with as much energy as ever. The liquor vendors had been sufficiently alarmed and cowed. The timber plunderers, who belonged to a somewhat higher class, and who acted with the connivance of many Indian confederates, were more difficult to deal with. Against them he waged a troublesome contest of watching, warnings, seizures and prosecutions for several years, and A fortunate venture, into which a merchantile were always heard with pleasure and respect by

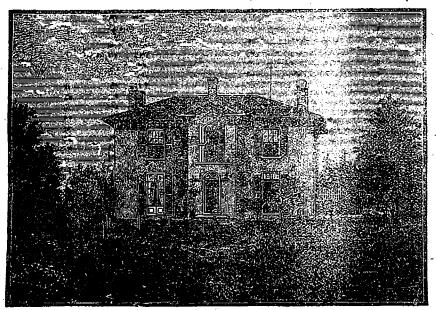
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the corrupters and despoilers of his people his manner totally changed. He knew them to be men utterly callous and unscrupulous, and only A few attempts at a better style of residence had to be subdued by the strong hand and the terrors been made; but that an Indián should compete of the law. To them he was stern and imperious, as if the spirit and temper of twenty genertions of the great chiefs, his ancestors, had been concentrated in his tone and manner. This deportment in "an Indian" filled the measure of their wrath to overflowing. At length their rage had its outbreak. In October, 1873, the chief was encountered on a lonely road, at midnight, by six men, who suddenly set upon him with in which almost every variety of the native bludgeons, knocked him down, breaking two of his ribs and a finger, and finally shot him with a revolver, and left him for dead. Recovering, however, he was able to crawl home; and once fortable dwellings of frame or brick, which are more, after a long illness, his wonderful vitality gradually replacing the rude log tenements of triumphed. He regained his strength, but his former days. The house, it may be added, obconstitution was irretrievably shattered. He tained for its possessor the Indian personal name became subject to frequent attacks of neuralgia and erysipelas, which at times incapacitated him in the council) he was best known-that of for work. But in the intervals of these attacks he continued as alert as ever in the performance sion."\* of this duties.

These duties, however, no longer included the war with lawless and degraded white men. The beans, and pumpkins excited the admiration of last murderous attack upon him had aroused a the first explorers. Since their removal to Canflame of popular indignation. All classes, whites and Indians alike, shared in the sentiment and been notable. The wheat market of Brantford in determination to crush the mischief. Before has for many years been largely supplied from this blaze of public wrath the vile conspiracy the Reserve. To direct this industry into the

scattered farms in the small log cabins which / had replaced their earlier bark-built habitations. with the wealty whites in this way was not expected. The chief, who had a natural taste and talent for architecture, erected on his farm one of the finest dwellings in the county. A white stuccoed building, of two lofty stories and a spacious and imposing front, rose, elegant and stately, upon a terraced eminence overlooking the Grand River, in the midst of a parklike grove, woods was represented. The example proved infectious. The traveler crossing the Reserve sees already, here and there, the new and comby which (apart from his hereditary designation, Onwanonsyshon-"He who has the great man-

The Iroquois have always been an agricultural people. Their extensive plantations of maize, ada their industry and aptitude as farmers have



best channels, and to furnish it with the latest scientific aids, was a most desirable object. The chief took a zealous part in establishing, an agricultural society on the Reserve. ' An older chief, whose influence would be useful, was made president, while Chief Gcorge assumed the humbler. but more important duties of sectetary. The annual exhibitions of the so-

CHIFSWOOD. HOME OF CHIEF GEORGE H. M. JOHNSON.

shriveled at once, as if smitten by lightning. | ciety, beginning on a modest scale, now rival their crime either in prison or by flight and selfthe law as any part of Canada.

lawlessness which was thus at last concluded, he all owned and managed by Indians. had been active in other plans for the benefit and improvement of his people. It was his way acquired their deadly hostility. In the ordinary friend had persuaded him, and yielded a good intercourse of society the chief was always gentle, profit and put him in funds. The Indians on courteous and unassuming; but in dealing with the Reserve had for the most part lived on their a heart—an ancient Indian symbol of friendship.

The malefactors were hunted down, and explated those of the neighboring townships. Of the progress which agriculture has made on the Reserve, banishment. From that day the Reserve has of late years, a judgement may be formed from been as safe and as free from open violations of a single fact. A visitor, not long ago, passing through a part of the Reserve, counted in his While the chief was waging the war against | morning's drive five threshing-machines at work,

The chief was a member of the Provincial Horticultural Association, and frequently attendto proceed rather by example than by precept. ed its meetings, where his judicious remarks