

Our Indians in a New Light.

THE subject which I wish to introduce to the notice of this audience is of a two-fold character. I desire first to give, as briefly as possible, a general view of the history and condition of the Indians in British North America, and then to pass on secondly to that particular work of training young Indian children, to which the past sixteen years of my life have been devoted.

But before proceeding to either of these subjects, allow me, first of all, to introduce to your notice the two little Indian boys, pupils of the Shingwauk Home, who accompany me.

(The two little boys here stepped forward and bowed. They were dressed in dark navy blue serge jackets and pants, trimmed with scarlet, with netted scarlet sashes round their waists, and beaded moccasins on their feet.)

This elder boy is named Willie Soney; he is about twelve years of age, comes from Walpole Island, is a member of the Pottawatami tribe; he has been two and a half years in our Institution, and has made very good progress; he beats the big drum in our brass band, and his Indian name is "Pah-tah-se-wa."

The younger boy is named Zosie Dosum; he is about eight years old, is an Ojebway, and has been a year and a half in our Institution; he comes from the north shore of Lake Superior, and used to be a regular little wild Indian; his Indian name is "Ah-ne-me-keens," meaning "Little Thunder."

(The boys then retired.)

PART I.—GENERAL VIEW.

At the present time the total number of Red Indians living in the United States and in Canada is estimated to be about 375,000. Of this number, about 250,000 have their residence in the States, and 125,000 live in Canada. Of these 125,000 Canadian Indians, about 18,000 reside in Ontario, 12,000 in Quebec, 4,000 in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 7,000 in Manitoba, 30,000 in what is generally called the Canadian North West, 38,000 in British Columbia, 7,000 in the Mackenzie River District, and the rest about Hudson Bay, Labrador and the Arctic Regions.

When the white people first came to this country, and for many years subsequently, they were, naturally enough, regarded by the Indians as all belonging to one nation—one tribe. They had all white faces, the men wore beards, they had hair and eyes of all shades of color, they all seemed to be of the same bustling disposition, and they all appeared to speak what sounded to the