

Appreciating the importance of the recent adoption of the pledge of temperance, amongst the Micmac Indians, the Lieutenant Governor would be glad to find that this salutary check to the destructive effects of inebriety had been introduced amongst the other Tribes in the Province.

As it is His Excellency's intention to recur to these topics, on receiving your further Reports, it only remains for me now to offer you his acknowledgements for the valuable information you have already communicated.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esq., Commissioner Indian Affairs, &c. &c. &c.

(6)

Fredericton, N. B. December 31st. 1841.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge your report dated the 18th instant, with your subsequent letter of the 28th, on the Reserved Lands of the Micmac Indians and the various petitions received from the persons, who under arrangements made with the Indians, or without their consent, have settled or encroached on them.

His Excellency directs me to assure you that he is strongly impressed with a sense of the zeal and intelligence with which you have discharged the arduous service you undertook, and which he regards as alike creditable to your humanity and public spirit.

Your report which contains details of great value, has been referred to the Surveyor General, and will be brought under the consideration of the Executive Council at their meeting on the 5th January, with a view to the adoption of prompt measures for the settlement of the Reserves, when the claims of those persons, whom you have recommended for the favourable consideration of the Government, will receive every attention consistent with the rights and interests of the Indians, for whom the lands have been specially reserved by the Crown.

His Excellency is gratified to learn that you are directing your attention to the introduction of habits of temperance amongst the Melicite Indians, which have been so laudably adopted by the Micmacs.

The Lieutenant Governor thinks that the Indians may, with advantage, participate in the public employment upon the roads.

I have, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

No. 6.

Extract of a Letter from Captain O'Halloran, dated

Burnt Church Point, 7th September, 1841.

Understanding from Mr. Perley that the introduction of the Scriptures amongst the Aborigines of New Brunswick, was one of the objects connected with his present mission, I have applied myself assiduously during our visit to the several Settlements, to the study of the Micmac language; with what success, Your Excellency may form some judgment from the translation of the "Lord's Prayer," which I forwarded some days since from Newcastle, and of which I now transmit to Your Excellency a corrected version, inscribed in the proper Micmac character. If Your Excellency thinks that my humble efforts are of any avail in the promotion of the object referred to, I beg to state that I am willing on my return from the Restigouche, to revisit Burnt Church. The Indians are delighted and grateful for the instructions in reading and writing, which I have already bestowed upon them; and as they are a very intelligent race, and most desirous to learn, I hope to realize my anticipations of being in some degree instrumental in the improvement of their moral condition.

My printed version of the "Lord's Prayer" has been put into the hands of about fifty Indians, some of whom can read it tolerably well.

Extract from a Report from Captain O'Halloran, dated

Newcastle, Miramichi, 27th Sept. 1841.

From the enquiries I have made as to the source from whence the Micmac Indians derived their first knowledge of an alphabet, I am led to the opinion that they owe their instruction to the Jesuits, who came to this Province amongst the early French settlers. I shall endeavour to embody in my Journal all that I can collect of a derivative, traditional or useful nature relative to the Micmac Indians. There is much in their cast of countenance, to wit, the broad high cheek-bones, straight black hair, and almost total absence of beard, and also in their marked predilection for the sea-coast, which would favour the opinion that they are of Malay origin; on the other hand, the Malays exhibit a striking contrast to the Aborigines of this coast, in the lowness of their stature, and especially in their disposition, which is notoriously treacherous and revengeful, whereas that of the Micmacs appears to be social, confiding and grateful; and these physical and moral discrepancies can only be accounted for by attributing them to the free admixture of late years of Micmac with European blood.

There are only a few Indians at Bathurst, and they are not in point of intelligence at all to be compared to those with whom I had previous intercourse. The only thing in the way of translation which I have lately achieved, has been Mr. Perley's Commission and my own and Mr. Rolland's, as Chiefs of the Micmac Nation. We were elected at a Grand Council of the Nation held at Barab Church on the 7th instant, in token of the gratitude felt by these poor Aborigines for our exertions in their behalf.

No. 7.

Extract of a Report upon the state and condition of the Indians residing at and frequenting Eel River and other parts of the County of Restigouche, by Mr. A. Barbaric.

Dalhousie, October 8, 1841.

Having been appointed by Your Excellency's Predecessor a Commissioner to superintend the affairs of the Indians in the County of Gloucester, in conjunction with Thomas M. Deblois, Esquire, of Bathurst, previous to the division of Gloucester, the Act of Assembly constituting the County of Restigouche became Law almost immediately after the above appointment. Mr. Deblois and myself however have continued to act under the appointment, each taking for his supervision the immediate County in which he resides, and dividing the annual grant equally between the two Counties, or according to circumstances and the more immediate wants of each. I have therefore deemed it most proper to report separately, and to furnish my Returns for Your Excellency's information accordingly.

In obedience to Your Excellency's desire, signified through a Circular received from the Honorable William F. Odell, I have obtained a return of the number of Indian Families comprised within the County of Restigouche, specifying the men and women, and the children of both sexes. The peculiar situation of this County from its proximity to the Mission, as it is called, situate on the Canada side of the Restigouche River about twenty miles from the Eel River Reserve, and where from three to four hundred Indians are located, the Chiefs of which Tribe exercise jurisdiction over the Indians of this County. This circumstance, coupled with the wandering habits of the Indians themselves, renders it a most difficult matter for me to distinguish who are really inhabitants, or such as may be said permanently to reside in this County. In detecting many who have thus imposed upon our limited means, I have been greatly assisted by the activity and skill of M. H. Perley, Esquire, who recently visited this quarter by Your Excellency's directions.

There is a Reserve for the Indians situate at the mouth of Eel River, about three miles from Dalhousie, the Shire Town of this County, (originally, I believe, 400 acres) of about from 150 to 200 acres, where some three or four families of the Indians constantly reside, and at the shooting and fishing seasons numbers resort thither from the Mission on the Canada side as before described. The land reserved at Eel River is of little or no use for cultivation, consisting almost entirely of a low morass or swaunpy nature, or what is commonly called Carriboo plains; the River itself is but a small stream, branching or forking about two or three miles from the mouth, the tide flowing perhaps two miles up the River, and forming near its confluence with the Bay de Chaleur, a wide basin of shallow water covering a soft muddy bottom, affording the best ground for Eel fishing in this part of the Province, and for the same space is probably not equalled in any part of the world; these fish furnish a most valuable and delicious article of food for the Indians, are taken at all seasons of the year and in great abundance, and by the sale of what they do not require, often supplies them with other necessaries. It is also a resort of Codfish in the Winter, the Indians killing these fish with spears through holes cut in the ice at or near the River mouth. Trout, Smelt, and numerous Flat Fish are also taken in great abundance, few or no Salmon are taken there, the mouth of the River being very much exposed to Easterly winds, raises a sea too heavy to hold Salmon Nets, and the River too shallow for these fish to ascend any distance up. It is a great resort for Wild Geese, Brant and various Water Fowl in the Spring and Autumn. The land as I have already described is of no value for cultivation, the only valuable part as formerly understood by the Indians as forming part of the Reserve, comprehends a large Tract of Marsh Land at the head of the tide, but which has been long since granted to private individuals. One Squatter having located himself upon their ground near the mouth of the River, was immediately warned off by me, and since his removal I have not heard of any trespass whatever being committed on their Reserve. They complain indeed of some of the French population encroaching upon their Eel ground and fishing their fish, but the River being (as I humbly conceive) free to all Her Majesty's subjects, I informed them that I could not compel those people to desist from such practice, but that I would report the subject of their complaint to Your Excellency.

Several Indian children have attended Parish Schools in this County, and can read and write the English language, and we have one boy entered at the Grammar School at Dalhousie, (free,) his father who appears to be of respectable standing amongst the Tribe, is most anxious that his son should receive a liberal education; the