

Academy, have made very satisfactory progress, and two of them obtained some of the first prizes at the annual examination.

Nevertheless, it is evident that much remains to be done: the interests and even the existence of those Indians who have not yet embraced Christianity, or quitted their erratic habits, demand immediate and constant attention, in order to counteract the baneful influences of loss of territory and diminished means of subsistence, of the introduction of spirits, arms and ammunition, of the contamination of profligate example, and of the gradual, but certainly destructive process of the fur-trade as at present carried on.

There is one very serious evil, the remedy for which is altogether in the power of the Government, and might be immediately applied, namely, the mode of distributing annuities and presents, granted by the British Government. This grievance, which took its origin in Sir F. Head's policy, has already been alluded to in the extract from Hesh-ton-a-quet's letter: its operation will be seen from the following paragraph taken from the Christian Guardian.

A letter from a Wesleyan missionary, dated, Munnedoolin Island, July, 1838, contains the following remarks. We found Brother Herchman and his family in good health, but nearly alone, the Indians having gone to the Munnedoolin Island. These people deserve great credit for their industry: their corn and potatoe-fields present a beautiful appearance; they are, generally speaking, well hoed; indeed, I do not remember to have seen finer crops; and they have evidently got them in, notwithstanding their northerly location, early in the season. It is to be hoped that this people, with their brethren elsewhere, will receive some security as to their right of possessing and occupying these lands. The land is excellent, the flats particularly so. The Indians were nearly all absent, having gone to the Munnedoolin Island:—this month or five weeks' absence, annually, in the height of summer, when their corn and potatoes most need their attention, is of more injury to them seven-fold than the goods which they receive are beneficial.

I cannot but indulge a hope that his Excellency, Sir George Arthur, who evidently has the good of the Indians at heart, will endeavour, in carrying out the gracious desire of her Majesty's Government, to quiet the minds of the Indians, will do something for this people, alike with their brethren, in securing to them a permanent home. Who, I ask, has a greater claim? They have not, like other tribes, sold their possession for a stipulated sum annually, but have, however unwillingly, surrendered all the land that is worth possessing, trusting implicitly to the liberality of the British Government.

Should the compulsive surrender made to Sir F. B. Head be considered valid at home, which I can scarcely conceive possible, after the gracious professions of Lord Glenelg's despatches, and, especially, the late dispatch to his Excellency, Sir George Arthur, the Lieutenant-Governor, this people are undone: but it cannot be; the honour and dignified character of the British empire will never be tarnished by approving of any dishonourable transaction, even for a continent, much less for a few thousand acres of wild land in America, which is dear to the Indians, as the graves of their fathers, and valuable, as the source of subsistence for their families.

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