

than with the United States. As will be seen from the following brief extracts from the printed report of the interview, the Bishop furnished some interesting and encouraging information regarding the Indians.

“His Lordship stated that the population of his diocese was comparatively small, but was scattered over a territory of vast extent. After having travelled two thousand miles, he had scarcely overtaken a third of the diocese. He believed that the natives would not disappear from the face of the earth, if they could be settled and christianized. He found that the natives on the Vancouver's side were inclined to agricultural pursuits, and to settle in villages. Of course, to enable them to commence farming, they required agricultural implements and cattle. They were, generally speaking, very attentive to the instructions of their clergymen, and, even as hunters, they carried their religious books with them, and he believed, on the Sabbath abstained from hunting. There were some native ordained ministers and some catechists, upon whom he had devolved a little power, and they went among the Indians teaching them to read and write what is called the syllabic characters. The children of the Indians are learning English; and he considered it an important, element in the improvement of any native race, that they should learn the language of the civilized people who come among them, even if it was to exist concurrently with their own. His Lordship further stated that one of the means by which the Indians were being civilized was the introduction amongst them of syllabic writing, which was based upon the phonetic principle. The natives objected to the English characters because so many of them were needed to express simple sounds, whereas these new characters are free from that objection, and can be learnt by a native Indian in two or three days.”

Public opinion in this country, as represented by the newspaper press, has not been slow to express its concurrence, not only in the special objects on behalf of the Indians which the Aborigines Protection Society are anxious to realise, but also in favour of the extension westward of the enlightened and constitutional Government of Canada. The following extracts from leading articles which have appeared in the columns of Whig, Conservative, Radical, Church, and Dissenting journals, prove that the question is one upon which all parties may patriotically unite.

The *Morning Post*, in September last, closed an able article on the desirability of extending Canada westward with the following significant remarks :—

“A few days ago we mentioned that the Canadian Government intended to bring the condition of the Hudson's-Bay territory under the consideration of the Home Government. On this point Mr. Vankougnat states that he had taken great pains to collect accurate information regarding the vast country called the Hudson's-Bay territory, and he was convinced that a very great extent of it was not inferior to the settled parts of Canada, either in soil or climate. Nay, more, he was convinced that if ever the Atlantic and Pacific were connected by railway, it must be through this territory and the Ottawa Valley, having the Gulf of St. Lawrence for its eastern outlet. Some people might think him too sanguine; but he thought it quite possible that some then listening to him might live to see the products of China and the East journey-

