

ber of drinking places, by having them closed at certain hours, and on the Lord's Day; and by securing that what is sold shall be, as much as possible, wholesome and pure. These things can be done with comparative ease; they can be secured by Acts of Parliament; and an incalculable improvement would be thereby effected.

THE BRANT MEMORIAL.

It is proposed to raise a Memorial Fund to perpetuate the memory of the great Mohawk Chief, Thayendanega, or Captain Joseph Brant. He is spoken of as the most prominent man in the leading tribe of the most enlightened and powerful Indian Confederation that has ever been formed. He and his people espoused the cause of Great Britain in the Revolutionary war, and in consequence, suffered expatriation and the loss of everything except honor, which they held most dear. In that struggle they loyally and gallantly led their fathers as allies of the Crown in defence of it and the Empire; and when they had lost all, they still maintained their allegiance, and finding their way to what were then the wilds of Canada, they continued unimpaired their attachment to the Crown and its institutions. Their celebrated chief appears to have been a man of unusual ability and energy. After the war of Independence, the Six Nation Confederacy was broken up, and the Council fires which had burned uninterruptedly for many generations were now extinguished; but with the endurance for which their race is remarkable, the Mohawks took up their residence where they now remain, on the Grand River, and set to work resolutely and perseveringly to convert it into a home for themselves and their descendants. A portrait of the great Chief was painted on the occasion of his visit to England in 1786, from which a number of copies have since been taken. In 1874 Prince Arthur visited the Six Nation Indians, on which occasion they presented him with a memorial, representing "their anxious desire to see performed their too long delayed duty of worthily perpetuating the memory of their great Chief, Captain Joseph Brant, or Thayendanega. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught has been asked to accept the position of Patron of the Memorial Fund, and the local committee propose securing the names of the leading men throughout the Dominion as Vice-Patrons. It must not be forgotten that the Six Nation Indians took an important part in the war of 1812, when it was sought to destroy the last vestige of British authority on this continent; and from that time till now, when any similar attempts have been made, the Mohawk nation has been ever ready to manifest the loyalty which was so conspicuous in their forefathers of the last generation.

THE INDIAN ACT.

It is truly refreshing to turn from the barbarous and sanguinary treatment of the natives of this continent, as practis-

ed in the United States, to the honorable, wise, and in some respects, Christian treatment which their brethren receive when in British territory. An Act was passed during the last session of the Dominion Parliament, in entire agreement with the policy which England and Canada have always pursued towards the original owners of the American soil; and which is said to bid fair to prove a complete success. The measure provides means for raising all Indians who desire it, from the position of dependents to that of citizens. It would also appear that the Indians themselves are pleased with the new arrangements, for we are informed that the movement in the direction of enfranchisement has already begun; and so sanguine are the promoters of the plan that it will ultimately succeed, that they predict the movement will spread with considerable rapidity until every Indian in the older parts of the Dominion has been admitted to all the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, on precisely the same footing as Europeans or their descendants. At a council of Ojibways, recently held at Southampton, the Indians of the Bruce reserve unanimously decided to take advantage of the provisions of the Act. It is alleged that although the progress of the experiment will be watched with a good deal of interest, yet few will entertain much anxiety or fear as to the result; because the Indian race has always shown that it has mental acumen enough to make the best of the circumstances in which it may be placed; and there is no reason why every facility should not be afforded for these people to amalgamate themselves more thoroughly with our own, at least in social and municipal institutions. Justice to the original owners of every inch of American soil requires that such facilities should be afforded; and however much we may have cause to congratulate ourselves on the superiority of our treatment of the aborigines when compared with that afforded by our neighbors, yet we may rest assured that there will ever be considerable room for improvement.

THE SIOUX WAR.

We imagine many of our readers will have but little idea of the nature and magnitude of the difficulty connected with the Indian trouble in the United States. There appears to be no way of peace open to the contending parties; and, in all probability, before a final settlement takes place thousands on thousands of lives will be lost, and several hundred millions of dollars will be spent. Some among us have been speculating on the consequences that may result from the Sioux Indians being driven from the United States Territory and finding a refuge in the Dominion. That, however, would appear to be a very remote contingency indeed. Some years of fighting among vast piles of mountains, but little known to the white man, will probably pass over before such an

event can be possible. The cause of all which is to be sought in the rapacity of the white man; and the greatest possible advantage will be, the possession of tracts of wild land which will not be wanted for many a year to come.

In order to arrive at some idea of what has to be done, we may mention a few facts which may impart some light on the subject. In the Modoc war about one hundred comparatively tame Indians defied the military power of the United States for some time, and were at last overcome only through the treachery of some of their own people. The foe that has now to be overcome numbers many thousands of the fiercest and wildest savages on the continent, who are headed by chiefs, thoroughly versed in strategy. The Modocs were hemmed in by lava beds; but the Sioux Indians have an area of thousands of square miles abounding in natural fortresses, where they may defy all the armies in the world. According to the *New York Sun* there are forty thousand square miles in the great Sioux reservation alone, and a population of thirty thousand upon it. There are also fifteen or twenty thousand of this warlike nation, the fiercest on the continent, upon other reservations, besides several thousands who have steadily refused to enter into any relations at all with the United States government, refusing to make any treaties with it, or to acknowledge it in any way whatever.

A few years ago, the Cheyenne war cost the United States Government one million of dollars for every Indian that was killed. In Florida, about forty years ago, a few Seminoles held out for seven years against the military forces of the United States commanded by some of the ablest generals that people ever had. That contest cost the country ten million dollars and about fifteen hundred lives.

But other and still more important matters have to be taken into account. We are told that a general uprising among the red skins may be expected, because other Indian nations besides the Sioux have been deprived of their treaty rights for a number of years; and if they carry the war—as it is not improbable—into the unprotected frontier settlements, the consequences will be frightful beyond all former precedent. At any rate, there will be no exaggeration in anticipating an addition of hundreds of millions of dollars to the national debt, and the loss of a multitude of innocent lives.

We have it from United States authority that this war is a most unrighteous one, that it has grown "out of gross violations of treaty," in order "to gratify the avarice of speculators and political jobbers." The most recent intelligence indicates that all the young men of the different tribes are on the war path; their numbers are swelled every day from several different directions; and it is estimated that there are already, with "Sitting Bull," at least ten thousand men; so that a general Indian war is expected in the West.