

THE INDIAN.

—A PAPER DEVOTED TO—

The Aborigines of North America,

—AND ESPECIALLY TO—

THE INDIANS OF CANADA.

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HEADCHIEF KAH-KE-WA-QUO-NA-BY, (DR. F. E. JONES.) Editor. ALF. DIXON, Business Manager

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Insertions under this head for Indians will be 25 cents. For other than Indians 75 cents each insertion

BIRTHS.

Near Hagersville, on the 7th inst., the wife of Mr. Laurence Herchmer, of a son.

Correspondence.

MORAVIANTOWN RESERVE.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN":

SIR:—Your issue of the 9th June, contained an article by Mr. J. B. Noah, which I consider, should on account of its misleading statements, be answered.

The learned "reporter," Mr. Noah, appears to have some notion of what a "clever fellow" is like; he evidently considers himself to be such, in an eminent sense; he also seems to be the happy possessor of a peculiar style of expressing himself concerning the mental capacities of others, to the manifest exaltation of his own great wisdom and infallibility—for, verily no Pope believed himself more infallible than does John B. Noah, Esq. However, Mr. Editor, some do whisper that this self-same wise-acre relies on your promise to rectify all mistakes in composition, that may be made by those using the columns of your valuable paper. Just here, I will request you, incidentally, not to change a jot or a tittle of this letter in the printing of it, as I do not wish to be thought cleverer than I am,—no borrowed plumes for me.

Mr. Noah requests you to "fancy a man of common sense saying there is no standard time in Moraviantown," and I request you to fancy there is standard time in Moraviantown, as asserted by this man of most uncommon sense. For, assuredly, it would be but fancy, as the capacity of the Bothwell bell is but two miles, and the nearest point in the reserve is three miles, and the central point four and a half miles thence; hence the bell cannot be heard by us for a month at a time sometimes; only when the weather and wind are favorable, which is but seldom. Therefore the charge against our present teacher, Mr. Edwards, that he does not always call school, sharp, at 9 a.m., is merely a supposition, a cat-

call of his enemies, of whom, by his babble, I should consider Mr. Noah. And here, Mr. Editor, let me say that without doubt, and in the minds of our people Mr. Edwards is, and has been, the best of all other teachers who have taught our school. Is it simply the love for change, the fickle unstableness of a puppet's mind, that wishes to oust him, and trust to the lottery of chance for his equal or superior?

The person whom Mr. Noah would have as his successor is said to have a superior claim to the school because he is an Indian, while Mr. Edwards is unfortunate in being white. In this we see the "protection" of race, but not the protection of talent and teaching ability, which I contend, should be before race distinctions.

There is no doubt that our present teacher's knowledge extends to depths that Mr. ——— mind can never fathom. Also, Mr. Edwards is a qualified Canadian teacher, his renewed certificate having been forwarded to headquarters some five weeks ago, while Mr. ——— American certificate, which deservedly is not recognized here, is, I have reasons for thinking, nothing more than a school certificate of attendance, from the Moravian School at Nazareth, Penn., which Mr. Noah should know will not qualify him as a Public School Teacher in Canada, because it is not good enough by a considerable fraction, for our Agent has it from the P. S. Inspector that our learned American graduate could not answer the simplest questions, he put to him, while examining him for eligibility to teach.

While speaking comparatively of these two gentlemen, I might say something of the relative esteem in which they are severally held. Mr. Edwards is respected and thought much of by the majority of the tribe; while Mr. Stonefish, notwithstanding his great learning (?) could only obtain 14 votes, out of about 60, at the late election, when he ran for Secretary of the reserve, which fact Mr. Noah failed to mention in his report to your paper, for it would be to the disparagement of his friend. The vote of 14 was polled by a clique of relatives and inexperienced young voters who were first trying their pinions on the winds of election.

It is this "family compact" that has broached the absurd plan of cutting the Inspector off. Leaving our school, as a ship without a rudder, to flounder about at the caprice of any teacher qualified or unqualified, whom a local board of Trustees might appoint. When asked who would examine the school as to its working they answered with amazing *sang froid*, "we will."—we:—pronoun, first person, plural number, agreeing with their ignorance. I do not know much grammar, but I think that is the way to parse that word.

I should like to bring to your notice the fact, that the motion Mr. Noah parades before the public, the one he quoted in his letter to you, was carried by misrepresentation. The council was given to understand that Mr. Stonefish was a qualified teacher, and that Mr. Edwards was not. On the strength of this the council passed the motion. As soon as it was discovered that both statements were false, most of the council changed their minds.

Mr. Noah uses these words in concluding his

letter: "he wishes that his tribe would be wiser from year to year, and from generation to generation." I do hope that he will be wiser from year to year and from generation to generation and not remain what he is to-day; at least try to tell the truth, and he will get along much better from year to year and from generation to generation, or at least his offspring. I heartily agree with the wish conveyed by the words of the former part of the witticism, and strongly recommend the latter part to Mr. Noah's personal consideration.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for space,

I remain, Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

JAMES DOLSON.

[In fairness to Mr. Dolson, we publish the above communication, but the discussion upon this subject is becoming altogether too personal and is not a matter in which the Indians generally will be interested, and as we do not wish THE INDIAN to be a means through which party or personal strife could be encouraged upon the reserves, we must decline to publish any more disputes of this nature. What we desire is items of news from each reserve, which will be of interest to our people generally.—Ed.]

ONEIDA RESERVATION—(RIVER THAMES.)

From our own Correspondent,

The two Sunday Schools of this reserve held their annual picnic in Elija Lickers grove on June 31st.

A great deal of road work has been done by the Oneidas on the concessions and on the town line, between Middlesex and Elgin, which has been opened as far as Campbell's swamp. The roads are in pretty good shape now.

Mr. Elija Lickers attended the conference in St. Thomas and succeeded in securing Rev. E. Hulburt to act as missionary for another term.

The United Temperance Society, District No. 1, at Oneida, received quarterly dues from subordinate lodges amounting to \$46.90 one lodge being at Grand River, two at Green Bay, Wisconsin, and three at Oneida. More lodges will shortly be organized.

The Oneida choir, under the leadership of Mr. Thos. Williams, will attend the camp meeting at Niagara Falls this Summer.

Dr. Oronhyotekha has rented a large farm on the reserve and employed a number of the young men to work it. The Dr. says if he does not raise 3000 bushels of grain they can call him a Dutchman.

MUNCEY RESERVE.

A base ball match was played on the 17th June last between the Oneida and Chippewa clubs. After playing nine innings a side the score resulted as follows: Chippewas 38, Oneidas 12.

In the afternoon of the same day the Oneidas played the Gritty Nines, three innings a side. The Oneidas winning by 7 to 3.