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**COMMUNICATIONS**

AND

**DESPATCHES**

**RELATING TO RECENT NEGOCIATIONS WITH  
THE INDIANS.**

**By SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD, BART.,  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, &c.**

AND

**ARRANGEMENTS**

FOR THE

**FUTURE SETTLEMENT OF THE TRIBES  
IN THIS PROVINCE.**

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*Printed by order of the House of Assembly.*

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**PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.**

*Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with sundry Despatches relating to the Indians of this Province.*

F. B. HEAD.

The Lieutenant Governor, with reference to the surrender by the crown of the controul of the territorial revenue to the Provincial Legislature, deems it right to communicate to the House of Assembly the accompanying copies and extracts of a correspondence between the Local and Imperial Governments on the subject of the Indians in this Province, and the liberal protection and care which they are entitled to claim, from the Legislature, as the original possessors of the soil, and which he doubts not the House of Assembly will cheerfully recognize.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
29th January, 1838. }

No. 70.  
(Copy.)

TORONTO, 20th August, 1836.

MY LORD;

Your Lordship is aware that my predecessor, Sir John Colborne, with a view to civilize and christianize the Indians who inhabit the country north of Lake Huron, made arrangements for erecting certain buildings on the great Manatoulin Island, and for delivering, on this spot to the visiting Indians, their presents for the present year.

The instructions which I received from your Lordship to counteract or defer these arrangements, reached me too late to be acted upon, and it being impracticable to promulgate to the Indians that they were not to assemble there, I determined to proceed to the Island and attend the meeting.

I was five days going there in a canoe, and during that period, as well as during my return, had an opportunity of meandering through, and living upon the Islands which are on the North shore of Lake Huron, and which exceed in number twenty-three thousand.

Although formed of granite, they are covered with various trees growing in the interstices of the rocks, and with several descriptions of berries upon which the Indians feed; the surrounding waters abound in fish.

On arriving at the great Manatoulin Island, where I was received by fifteen hundred Indians, who had assembled for their presents, I found that this Island as well as those I had mentioned, belong (under the crown) to the Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, and that it would, therefore, be necessary to obtain their permission before we could avail ourselves of them for the benefit of the other tribes.

Although I did not approve of the responsibility, as well as the expense of attracting, as had been proposed, the wild Indians from the country north of Lake Huron to Manatoulin, yet it was evident to me that we should reap a very great benefit if we could persuade these Indians, who are now impeding the progress of civilization in U. Canada, to resort to a place possessing the double advantage of being admirably adapted to them, (inasmuch as it affords fishing, hunting, bird-shooting and fruit,) and yet in no way adapted to the white population. Many Indians have long been in the habit of living in their canoes among these islands, and from them, from every enquiry I could make, and from my own observation, I felt convinced that a vast benefit would be conferred both upon the Indians and the Province by prevailing upon them to migrate to this place.

I accordingly explained my views in private interviews which I had with the Chiefs, and I then appointed a Grand Council, on which they should all assemble to discuss the subject, and deliberately to declare their opinions.

When the day arrived, I addressed them at some length, and explained to them, as clearly as I was able, their real interests, to which I found them very sensibly alive.

The Indians had previously assembled to deliberate upon the subject, and had appointed one of their greatest orators to reply to me.

The individual selected was Sigonah (the Blackbird), celebrated among them for having, it is said, on many public occasions, spoken without once stopping, from sunrise to sunset.

Nothing could be more satisfactory than the calm deliberate manner in which the Chief gave, in the name of the great Ottawa tribe, his entire approval of my projects; and as the Chippewas and Ottawas thus consented to give up the twenty-three thousand islands, and as the Saugins also consented to give up a million and a half acres adjoining the lands of the Canada Company, I thought it advisable that a short plain memorandum should be drawn up, explanatory of the foregoing arrangements, to be signed by the Chiefs while in Council, and witnessed by the Church of England, Catholic and Methodist Clergymen who were present, as well as by the several officers of His Majesty's government.

I enclose to your Lordship a copy of this most important document, which, with a wampum attached to it, was executed in duplicate; one copy remaining with me, the other being deposited with a Chief selected by the various tribes for that purpose.

Your Lordship will at once perceive that the document is not in legal form; but our dealings with the Indians have been only in equity, and I was therefore anxious to shew that the transaction had been equitably explained to them.

The surrender of the Saugin Territory has long been a desideratum in the Province, and it is now especially important, as it will appear to be the first fruits of the political tranquility which has been attained.

I feel confident that the Indians, when settled by us in the manner I have detailed, will be better off than they were—that the position they occupy can bona fide be fortified against the encroachments of the whites—while, on the other hand, there can be no doubt that the acquisition of their vast and fertile territory will be hailed with joy by the whole Province.

The Right Honorable  
THE LORD GLENELG.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.

A true copy, J. JOSEPH.

(COPY.)

MY CHILDREN:—

Seventy snow seasons have now passed away since we met in Council at the crooked place, (Niagara) at which time and place your great Father, the King and the Indians of North America, tied their hands together by the wampum of friendship.

Since that period various circumstances have occurred to separate from your great Father many of his red children, and as an unavoidable increase of white population, as well as the progress of civilization, have had the natural effect of impoverishing your hunting grounds, it has become necessary that new arrangements should be entered into for the purpose of protecting you from the encroachments of the whites.

In all parts of the world, farmers seek for uncultivated land as eagerly as you, my red children, hunt in your great forests for game. If you would cultivate your land, it would then be considered your own property; in the same way as your dogs are considered among yourselves to belong to those who have reared them; but uncultivated land is like wild animals, and your Great Father who has hitherto protected you, has now great difficulty in securing it for you from the whites who are hunting to cultivate it.

Under these circumstances, I have been obliged to consider what is best to be done for the Red Children of the Forest, and I now tell you my thoughts.

It appears that these Islands in which we are now assembled in Council, are, as well as all those on the north shore of Lake Huron, alike claimed by the English, the Ottawas and the Chippewas.

I consider that from their facilities, and from their being surrounded by innumerable fishing Islands, they might be made a most desirable place of residence for many Indians who wish to be civilized as well as to be totally separated from the Whites, and I now tell you that your Great Father will withdraw his claim to these Islands, and allow them to be applied for that purpose.

Are you, therefore, the Ottawas and Chippewas, willing to relinquish your respective claims to these Islands, and make them the property (under your Great Father's control) of all Indians whom he shall allow to reside on them? If so, affix your marks to this proposal.

MANATOWANING, August 9, 1836.

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.

Signed by all the CHIEFS.

#### TO THE SAUKINS.

MY CHILDREN:—

You have heard the proposal I have just made to the Chippewas and Ottawas, by which it has been agreed between them and your Great Father, that these Islands (Manitoulin) on which we are now assembled in Council, should be made the property, (under your Great Father's control,) of all Indians whom he shall allow to reside on them.

I now propose to you that you should surrender to your Great Father, the Saugin Territory you at present occupy, and that you shall repair either to this Island or to that part of your Territory, which lies in the north of Owen's Sound; upon which proper houses shall be built for you, and proper assistance given, to enable you to become civilized and to cultivate land; which your Great Father engages forever to protect for you from the encroachments of the Whites.

Are you, therefore, the Saugin Indians, willing to accede to this arrangement? If so, affix your marks to this my proposal.

MANATOWANING, August 9, 1836.

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.

Signed by all the CHIEFS.

No. 102.

Copy.

DOWNING STREET, 5th October, 1836.

SIR,

I have received your Despatch of the 20th of August last, No. 70, reporting an expedition you had made in person to the shores of the Lake Huron, and the arrangements into which you had there entered into with the various tribes of Indians. Assured of the vigilant humanity by which your conduct, towards this helpless race of men, the survivors of the ancient possessors and lords of the country, could not but be directed, and conscious of the incomparable superiority of your means of forming a correct judgment how their welfare could be most effectually consulted. I have thought myself not only at liberty but obliged, in deference to your opinions, to recommend for His Majesty's sanction the arrangements and compacts into which you have entered; and influenced by the same consideration, the King has been graciously pleased to approve them.

His Majesty, however, directs me to commend these tribes in the strongest possible terms to your continued care, and to signify his express injunction that no measure should be contemplated which may afford a reasonable prospect of rescuing this remnant of the aboriginal race, from the calamitous fate which has so often befallen uncivilized man, when brought into immediate contact with the natives of Europe or their descendants.

Whatever intelligence or suggestions it may be in your power to convey, respecting the condition of these people and the prospect of their being reclaimed from the habits of savage life, and being enabled to share in the blessings of christian knowledge and social improvement, will at all times be received by His Majesty with the highest interest.

I have, &amp;c.,

Lieutenant Governor,  
F. B. HEAD.

(Signed)

GIENELG.

A true copy, J. JOSEPH.

Copy.

No. 95.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA,  
20th November, 1836.

MY LORD;

As the object of this communication is to endeavour to supply your Lordship with the information respecting the Indians and the Indian Department, required by your Lordship's despatch No. 12, I feel it may be satisfactory that I should commence by explaining what opportunities I have had of forming the opinion I am about to offer on the subject.

I have, therefore, the honor to state to your Lordship, that I attended the annual delivery of Presents to the visiting Indians at Amherstburgh, as also that which took place for the first time at the Great Manitoulin island in Lake Huron.

During my inspectional tour of the Province, I also visited (with one or two trifling exceptions) the whole of the Indian settlements in Upper Canada, and in doing so, made it my duty to enter every shanty or cottage, being desirous to judge, with my own eyes, of the actual situation of that portion of the Indian population which is undergoing the operation of being civilized.

I have had a slight opportunity of making myself acquainted with the Indian character in South America, and from the above data, I have now the honor to transmit to your Lordship the following observations on the subject.

## MEMORANDUM.

The fate of the Red inhabitants of America, the real proprietors of its soil is without any exception the most sinful story recorded in the history of the human race; and when one reflects upon the anguish they have suffered from our hands, and the cruelties and injustice they have endured, the mind, accustomed to its own vices, is lost in utter astonishment at finding, that in the Red man's heart there exists no sentiment of animosity against us—no feeling of revenge—on the contrary, that our appearance at the humble portal of his Wigwam, is to this hour a subject of unusual joy. If the white man be lost in the forest, his cry of distress will call the most eager hunter from his game, and among the tribe there is not only pleasure, but pride in contending with each other who shall be the first to render him assistance and food.

So long as we were obtaining possession of their country by open violence, the fatal result of the unequal contest was but too clearly understood; but now that we have succeeded in exterminating their race from vast regions of land, where nothing in the present day remains of the poor Indian, but the unnoticed bones of his ancestors, it seems inexplicable how it should happen, that even where their race barely lingers in existence, it should still continue to wither, droop and vanish before us like grass in the progress of the forest in flames. "The Red men," lately exclaimed a celebrated Miami Cacique, "are melting like snow before the sun."

Whenever and wherever the two races come into contact with each other, it is sure to prove fatal to the Red man. However bravely for a short time he may resist our bayonets and our fire-arms, sooner or later he is called upon by death to submit to his decree. If we stretch forth the hand of friendship, the liquid fire it offers him to drink, proves still more destructive than our wrath; and, lastly, if we attempt to christianize the Indians, and for that sacred object congregate them in villages of substantial log houses, lovely and beautiful as such a theory appears, it is an undeniable fact, to which, unhesitatingly, I add my humble testimony, that as soon as the hunting season commences, the men (from warm clothes and warm housing having lost their hardi-

hood) perish, or rather rot in numbers by consumption, while, as regards their women, it is impossible for any accurate observer to refrain from remarking, that civilization, in spite of the pure, honest and unremitting zeal of our Missionaries, by some accursed process, has blanched their babies' faces, in short, our philanthropy, like our friendship, has failed in its professions. Producing deaths by consumption, it has more than decimated its followers, and under the pretence of eradicating from the female heart the errors of a Pagan's creed; it has implanted in their stead the germs of christian guilt.

What is the reason of all this?—why the simple virtues of the Red Aborigines of America should, under all circumstances, fade before the vices and cruelty of the old world, is a problem which no one among us is competent to solve—the dispensation is as mysterious as its object is inscrutable. I have merely mentioned the facts because I feel that before the subject of the Indians in Upper Canada can be fairly considered, it is necessary to refute the idea which so generally exists in England, about the success which has attended the christianizing and civilizing of the Indians. Whereas, I firmly believe every person of sound mind in this country who is disinterested in their conversion, and who is acquainted with the Indian character will agree.

1st. That an attempt to make Farmers of the Red men has been, generally speaking, a complete failure.

2d. That congregating them for the purpose of civilization has implanted many more vices than it has eradicated, and, consequently,

3d. That the greatest kindness we can perform towards these intelligent, simple minded people, is to remove and fortify them as much as possible from all communication with the Whites.

Having concluded the few preparatory observations I was desirous to make, I will now proceed to state what negotiations I have already entered into with the Indians, and what is my humble opinion of the course we should adopt, as regards their Presents, and the expenses of the Indian Department.

At the Great Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron, where I found about 1500 Indians of various tribes assembled for their Presents, the Chippewas and the Ottawas at a General Council held expressly for the purpose, made over to me 23,000 Islands. The Saugeen Indians also voluntarily surrendered to me a million and a half of acres of the very richest land in Upper Canada. For the details attending these surrenders, see my Despatch to your Lordship, No. 70

On proceeding to Amherstburgh, I assembled the Hurons, who occupy in that neighborhood a hunting ground of rich land, of six miles square, two-thirds of which they surrendered to me, on condition that one of the the said two-thirds should be sold and the proceeds thereof invested for their benefit.

The Moravian Indians with whom I had also an interview, have likewise agreed for an annuity of £150, to surrender to me about six miles square of black rich land, situated on the banks of the Thames River.

I need hardly observe that I have thus obtained for Her Majesty's Government from the Indians an immense portion of most valuable land which will undoubtedly, produce at no remote period, more than sufficient to defray the whole of the expenses of the Indians and the Indian Department in this Province.

On the other hand, as regards their interests, my Despatch No. 70, will explain the arguments I used in advising them to retire and fall back upon the Manitoulin and other Islands in Lake Huron, the locality being admirably adapted for supporting them, but not for White men. Still it may appear that the arrangement was not advantageous to the Indians, because it was of such benefit to us; but it must always be kept in mind that however useful rich land may be to us, yet its only value to an Indian consists in the game it contains—he is in fact Lord of the Manor, but it is against his nature to cultivate the soil—he has neither right nor power to sell it. As soon therefore as his game is frightened away, or its influx or immigration cut off by the surrounding settlements of the Whites, his land, however rich it may be, becomes a "rudis indigestaque moles" of little value or importance, and in this state much of the Indian property in Upper Canada at present exists.

For instance, I found sixteen or eighteen families of Moravian Indians living on a vast tract of rich land, yet from absence of game, almost destitute of every thing—several of the men drunk—nearly all their children half castes—the high road through their Territory almost impassable—the white population execrating their indolence, and entreating to be relieved from the stagnation of a block of rich land, which separated them from their markets, as completely as if it had been a desert.

The above picture (which is a very common one) will, I think, sufficiently show that, however desirous one may be to protect the Indians, and I hope no one feels more deeply for them than myself, yet practically speaking, the greatest kindness we can do them is, to induce them, as I have done, to retreat before what they may justly term the accursed process of civilization; for, as I have stated, the instant they are surrounded by the white population, "the age of their civility has fled."

The Lieutenant Governor of the Province may protect them from open violence, but neither he nor any other authority on earth can prevent the combination of petty vices which, as I have already explained, are as fatal in their operation as the bayonet itself.

It is impossible to teach the Indian to beware of the white man; for it seems to be the instinct of his untamed nature to look upon him as his friend; in short, his simplicity is his ruin; and though he can entrap and conquer every wild beast in his forest, yet invariably he becomes himself the prey of his white brother.—

For the foregoing reasons, I am decidedly of opinion, that His Majesty's Government should continue to advise the few remaining Indians who are lingering in Upper Canada, to retire upon the Manitoulin and other islands in Lake Huron, or elsewhere towards the North West.

Your Lordship has informed me that the Committee of the House of Commons, on Military Expenditure in the colonies, are of opinion, "That the Indian Department may be greatly reduced, if not altogether abolished, and they, therefore, call the attention of the House to the same, and also to the expense of articles annually distributed to the Indians, and whether any arrangement may not be made to dispense with such distributions in future, or to commute the presents for money."

As it is your Lordship's desire that I should afford you as much information as possible on the above suggestions, I will now respectfully endeavour to do so.

The Presents which the British government has been in the habit of granting to the Indians in Upper Canada, have been delivered to two classes, termed the "Resident" and the "visiting"—whose numbers this year were as follows:—

Number of Indians resident in Upper Canada,	6,507
Average number of do. who, in order to receive presents from the British Government annually visit Upper Canada from the United States,	3,270
Total average annual cost of presents issued as above,	£8,500

It certainly appears to me very desirable indeed, that we should, if possible, discontinue the practice of giving presents to that portion of the visiting Indians who reside in the territory of the neighbouring States; but what is desirable is not always just, and it is therefore necessary, before the project be carried into effect, that we should consider what arguments exist for, as well as against it. In its favor it may be stated—

1st. That we should save an annual expenditure of say £1,000.

2ndly, That according to common laws among nations, there appears to be no reason why, having lost all dominion over, and interest in, the United States, we should continue to make annual payments to any portion of its inhabitants.

3rdly, That it amounts almost to an act of hostility for the British government to continue to give guns, powder and ball to the Indians of the United States, with whom that people are at this moment engaged in civil war.

4thly, That a considerable portion of the presents which we give to the Indians, are, shortly after their delivery, to be seen displayed by the shop-keepers of the United States, who often obtain them almost for nothing.

In reply to the first objection, namely, "that by withholding the presents we should save an annual expenditure of £1,000," it may be stated, that of all the money which has ever been expended by the British government, there is, perhaps, no sum which ought to be less regretted than that which we have hitherto bestowed upon the aborigines of America; it has purchased for us the blessing of their race—they love us—they have shed their blood for us—they would do so again,—they look upon us as the only just and merciful inhabitants of the old world; and, impressed with these feelings, their attachment to our Sovereign amounts almost to veneration. "When we see the sun rise in the East," said a warrior to me at the Great Council at the Manitoulin island, "it is our custom to say to our young men, there is our Great Father, he warms us, he clothes us, he gives us all we desire."

There can be no doubt that up to the present page in the history of the British Empire, we have acted well towards the Indians. What that reflection may intrinsically be worth, it is not so easy to determine, as every man will perhaps estimate it differently; however, its moral value, whatever it may be, should be deducted from the expense of which we complain; for we cannot enjoy both advantages, if we save the latter we must lose the former.

In reply to the second objection, namely, "that according to common laws among nations, there appears to be no reason why, having lost all dominion over, and interest in the United States, we should continue to make annual payments to any portion of its inhabitants."—it must be recollected that in our wars with the Americans, we gladly availed ourselves of the services of the Indians, whom invariably we promised we would never desert.

In these promises we made no restriction whatever as to domicile when the Tribes joined us; we never waited to ask whence they came—at the close of the war, when their surviving warriors left us, we never prescribed to them where they should go.

It will be asked in what way were these our promises made—it is difficult to reply to this question, as it involves the character of the Indian race.

An Indian's word, when it is formally pledged, is one of the strongest moral securities on earth—like the rainbow it beams unbroken, when all beneath is threatened with annihilation.

The most solemn form in which an Indian pledges his word, is by the delivery of a wampum belt of shells—and when the purport of this symbol is once declared, it is remembered and handed down from father to son, with an accuracy and retention of meaning which is quite extraordinary.



Whenever the belt is produced, every minute circumstance which attended its delivery, seems instantly to be brought to life, and such is the singular effect produced on the Indian's mind by this Talisman, that it is common for him whom we term "the savage" to shed tears at the sight of a wampum which has accompanied a message from his friend.

I have mentioned these facts, because they will explain the confident reliance the Indians place on the promises which accompanied by the delivery of wampums, were made to them by our Generals during, and at the conclusion of the American wars.

These rude ceremonies had probably little effect upon our officers, but they sunk deep in the minds of the Indians; the wampums thus given have been preserved, and are now entrusted to the keeping of the great orator Sigonah, who was present at the council I attended on the Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron, and in every sense these hieroglyphics are moral affidavits of the bye-gone transactions to which they relate—on our part, little or nothing documentary exists—the promises which were made, whatever they might have been, were almost invariably verbal; those who expressed them are now mouldering in their graves. However, the regular delivery of the presents proves and corroborates the testimony of the wampums, and by whatever sophistry we might deceive ourselves, we could never succeed in explaining to the Indians of the United States, that their Great Father was justified in deserting them.

To the third and fourth objections I have nothing to reply, for I must say, I think the Americans have reason for the jealousy they express at the British Government interfering, by positively arming their own Indians with whom they are at war, with English guns, powder and ball. I also cannot deny that a great proportion of the presents we give to the American Indians form a Tribute which we annually pay to the shopkeepers of the United States.

Having endeavoured as fairly as possible to explain the arguments on both sides, I now beg leave to state, that after having given the subject considerable reflection, I am of opinion that, to the visiting Indians of the United States, we cannot, without a breach of faith, directly refuse to continue the presents, which by the word of our Generals we have promised, and which by long custom we have sanctioned; but observing that the minds of these people were wide open to reasonable conviction, it occurred to me that it would not be difficult to explain to them that their Great Father was still willing to continue Presents to such of his Red Children as lived in his own land, but that in justice to the Americans, who are now our allies, he could not arm against them, those Indians who should continue to reside in the Territory of the United States, and consequently that after the expiration of three years, Presents would only be given to those of our Red Children who actually shall inhabit the Canadas.

I did not formally make this declaration at the Great Council at the Manitoulin island, but it was sufficiently hinted to them, to be clearly understood, as far as I could learn, and have since learned, it was received without disapprobation.

I would therefore recommend that this Declaration should be formally announced at the next delivery of Presents; the Indians in the United States would thus have plenty of time to prepare for the change, which I feel quite confident would end by our being released honourably and altogether from an engagement which I certainly think we have maintained long enough, to reward liberally the United States Indians, for the services they rendered us during the war. In fact there can be no doubt that we have treated their warriors infinitely better than we have behaved to our own veterans who, blind, wounded, mutilated, helpless, and miserable, are, at this moment wandering in the great bush or wilderness of Canada, regretting the hour that they ever imprudently committed with the British Government their hard earned pensions.

I do not think the Indians of the United States could or would complain of the above arrangement, and I feel certain that though a few would at first immigrate to Canada, they would not long remain there.

For many reasons which it would be tedious to your Lordship that I should detail, I would recommend that the Presents to the visiting Indians should, for the three years, be delivered at the Manitoulin Island only.

The expense of forwarding the Presents to that spot, though less than to the old place of delivery, (Drummond Island) is greater than at Pentanguishine, and Amherstburgh, but as only those who are really in want of their Presents would come to Manitoulin, we should gain, as indeed we did gain this year by that arrangement, infinitely more than the difference in the expense of transport.

In a memorandum I received on the 16th of July last from Mr. Commissary General Routh, many of whose suggestions I have effected, that gentleman not anticipating the recommendation I have now made for the ultimate discontinuance of Presents to the American Indians, proposed to diminish their expense by substituting strouds instead of cloth, by withholding powder, ball and shot.

Every person with whom I have consulted is of opinion, that the latter privation would be most severely felt by the Indian hunter, who lives by his gun; however, I feel confident that Mr. Routh himself will agree with me in opinion, that if the presents to all Indians residing in the United States are, as I propose, to be totally discontinued at so early a period as the expiration of three years, it would be unnecessary, unadvisable and ungenerous to make any deduction from the pittance or gratuity which is so shortly to be withheld.

Your Lordship is aware that considerable expenses for building, &c., were incurred at the Manitoulin Island this year, but the arrangement was made by Sir John Colborne, before I arrived here, and it was too late for me to alter it; however, as soon as I got there I put a stop to all that was doing, and discharged every person who had been engaged.



Having disposed of at least one third part of the Indian Presents, and the expense of their delivery, I certainly respectfully recommend that we should continue to deliver them to those few Indians who continue to inhabit Upper Canada.

I have already stated that this expense will shortly be defrayed altogether by the sale of lands they have this year liberally surrendered to me, and even if that were not to be the case, I do think that, enjoying as we do, possession of this noble Province, it is our bounden duty to consider as he-loom the wreck of that simple minded, ill-fated race, which as I have already stated, is daily and yearly fading before the progress of civilization.

We have only to bear patiently with them for a short time, and with a few exceptions, principally half castes, their unhappy race, beyond our power of redemption, will be extinct.

I am not prepared to recommend that money should be at present substituted for Presents to the resident Indians in this Province.

1st. Because I think, unless good arrangements were previously made, the Indians from their improvident habits would, in many places be left destitute, and,

2d. Without due precaution, a money delivery to so many men, women and children, might possibly be attended by very great impositions.

Another year's experience and reflection will, I make no doubt, enable me to offer to your Lordship a decided opinion on this subject, as I am quite alive to the advantage which we should gain by the substitution of money, if it could be properly effected.

In the expenses of the Indian Department which at present amount to £1610 17s. 10d. per annum, I am of opinion that a reduction might at once be made to the following extent, subject to moderate pensions, the greater part of which might be in grants out of land which has lately been ceded to me by the Indians.

3 Superintendents at £206 14 4	- - - - -	£620 3 0
1 Interpreter at 62 0 0	- - - - -	62 0 0

I also think that a considerable reduction might be made in the contingencies which at present amount to £2,000.

With respect to the pensions, which amount to £462, I conceive that as they have already been sanctioned, they could not, in justice, be repealed.

In conclusion, I now beg leave to refer to my Despatch, No. 31, respecting the age and services of Col. Givins. I conscientiously concur with Sir John Colborne and Sir P. Maitland in recommending that, in the evening of his long and well spent life, this officer may not be neglected by His Majesty's government, to whose service he has been more than half a century unremittingly and devotedly attached.

His name is so identified with the Indian history of this country, that I earnestly hope he may be allowed to retire on his full pay. He has a large family, and his advanced age, must prevent his long receiving the remuneration so strongly recommended by Sir John Colborne, by Sir Peregrine Maitland and by myself.

To replace Colonel Givins, who would continue to assist as an Interpreter, I have already recommended in my Despatch No. 31, the appointment of Mr. Hepburn, who last year has, without salary, been performing the duties of chief superintendent.

I am decidedly of opinion, that at the expiration of three years, a still further reduction may be made in the Indian Department, and that its expenses of every description will, ere long, be completely defrayed by the lands which I have lately obtained from the Indians.

I have, &c., (Signed) F. B. HEAD.

The Right Honorable  
THE LORD GLENELG.

A true copy, J. JOSEPH.

*Extract from a Despatch addressed to His Excellency Sir F. B. Head, by Lord Glenelg, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 20th January, 1837, No. 131.*

"I have received, and have laid before the King, your despatch of the 20th of November last, No. 95, containing your Report on the Indian tribes in Upper Canada, called for by my despatch of the 14th January, 1836.

"His Majesty commands me to express his satisfaction at the interesting and perspicuous account you have furnished of these people. His Majesty regards, with peculiar approbation, the humane consideration for their national habits and feelings, which appears to have directed your negotiations with them, and which has given birth to the suggestions offered by you regarding the measures to be pursued towards them in future.

" I fear that it is impossible to question the accuracy of the view which you have taken of the consequences resulting to the Indians from intercourse with white men ; nor can it be disputed that we are bound by the strongest obligations, to adopt the most effectual means of repairing the wrongs which we have inflicted on them, and of promoting their future welfare. I should most reluctantly yield to the conviction, that, in the prosecution of this object, we must abandon the hope of imparting to the Indians the blessings of christianity, on the ground, that those blessings were necessarily more than counterbalanced by the evils with which they have hitherto been unhappily associated. I should rather be disposed to attribute those evils to the counteracting tendency which, under unfavourable circumstances, ordinary intercourse with white men has had on the instruction and example of christian teachers, than to any inherent inaptitude in the Indians for the reception of a religion, in itself peculiarly qualified to elevate the character and raise the standard of morality.

" One great advantage which, among others, I should venture to anticipate, from the adoption of your suggestion, of interposing a considerable space between the country occupied by White men and the Indian settlements, is the facility which such an arrangement might offer to the inculcation, by properly qualified Teachers of the doctrines and precepts of christianity, without interference with the ordinary habits of life hitherto pursued by the Indians, and apart from the deteriorating influence of a general intercourse with another race of men."

" In my despatch of the 5th October last, I conveyed to you His Majesty's approbation of the measures which you had taken for setting the three tribes of Indians, therein referred to, on the Great Manitoulin island, and for procuring the cession, to His Majesty, of the large territory hitherto held by them as hunting grounds. Convinced, as I am, of the benevolent feelings which you entertain towards this race, and of the advantages which they may derive from the adoption of your scheme : I'm now to express to you His Majesty's approbation of the further engagements which you have entered into with the Huron and Moravian Indians, and of the arrangements which you have made for the future distribution of presents at the Manitoulin island only, instead of the various posts hitherto kept up for that purpose.

" Your suggestion that the expense of Indian Presents should hereafter be defrayed out of the sale of the lately ceded lands appears to be very judicious.

" In the hands of the British Government, and subject to the existing regulations as to the disposal of public lands in the Colonies, these lands hitherto of little, if any value to the Indians, may not only form an important acquisition to the Province, but may at the same time supply the means of benefitting the original occupiers of the soil to a far greater extent than has as yet been practicable.

" The proceeds of the sales of these lands would, under ordinary circumstances, be included in the casual and territorial revenues, the cession of which in return for a civil list has been already offered to the Provincial Legislature, but under the peculiar circumstances attending their cession, they must be held subject to the charge of providing to the utmost practicable extent for the wants and improvement of the Indians, and in communicating to the Council and Assembly, the result of your recent negotiations, you will, of course, distinctly apprise those bodies of the object to which it is intended to apply the sums derived from these lands, or so much of them as may be required for this purpose, considering the great benefit accruing to the Province from the acquisition of these extensive and fertile tracts, I cannot doubt that this arrangement will meet with universal acquiescence.

" In regard to the visiting Indians I approve of your proposition to make to them the formal communication that the presents will be discontinued to them after three years ; but in regard to the nature of those Presents during this interval, I would observe that, although I should be extremely reluctant to make any change which would be severely felt by these persons, yet if it should appear that the muskets and ammunition supplied to them by His Majesty's Government are directly turned against the inhabitants of the United States, I should feel myself precluded from sanctioning the issue of those articles for the future. I am not, however, aware of any representations having been made by the Government of the United States of inconvenience or injury having resulted from the present practice, and I should not be disposed to direct any change for so short a period without clear proof of its necessity.

A true extract,

(Signed)

J. JOSEPH.

*EXTRACT from a Despatch addressed to His Excellency Sir Francis Head by Lord Glenelg, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 20th February, 1837.*

" With reference to my Despatch of the 20th ultimo, No. 131, I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information, the copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Treasury and this department, on the subject of your late arrangements respecting the Indians in Upper Canada."

A true extract.

(Signed)

J. JOSEPH.

*Extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Under Secretary Stephen, to A. G. Spearman, Esq., dated Downing Street, the 20th February, 1837.*

" I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to request that you will state to Lord Glenelg, that their Lordships have had under their consideration the Despatches from the Governors of the Canadian Provinces upon the subject of the Indian establishments, forwarded in your letters of the 12th and 24th ultimo, and under the circumstances therein set forth, are pleased to approve of the arrangements reported by the Earl of Gosford for completing the customary presents to the Indians in Lower Canada for the past year. Their Lordships also concur in the sanction which the Secretary of State proposes to convey to Sir Francis Head, for the discontinuance, at the period suggested in his despatch, of the issues of presents to Indians resident in the territory of the United States, and for the appropriation of the proceeds of the lands, recently ceded by the Indians, to the formation of a fund to meet the future claims of the tribes to whom presents are made at the expense of the British government, in order to effect which object, their Lordships would suggest, that care be taken to ascertain correctly the extent and boundaries of these lands, and that the produce of any sales that may be effected of them, is not merged in the general and territorial revenue of the Province."

*Extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Under Secretary Stephen, to F. Baring, Esq., one of the Secretaries of His Majesty's Treasury, dated 24th January, 1837.*

" With reference to my letters of the 12th and 13th inst., I am directed by Lord Glenelg to transmit to you herewith, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the copy of a Despatch from Sir Francis Head relative to the expenditure on account of Indians in Upper Canada.

" From Sir F. Head's communication their Lordships will perceive, that although no extensive saving in the expenditure on this account in Upper Canada can be immediately effected, yet a considerable reduction of this expense may be anticipated within a short period by the discontinuance of the presents to such of the Indians as shall be resident in the Territory of the United States, and that there is reason to hope that this country may ultimately be altogether relieved from this charge, by the application of the proceeds of recently acquired Indian lands to defray the claims of the Indians to whom the annual presents are made. Lord Glenelg proposes to convey to Sir F. Head his sanction of this arrangement."