

We are told by Pere Chrétien Leclercq (*Nouvelle Relation de la Gaspésie*, 1691) that the Indians of Gaspé performed a simple and beautiful act of worship to the sun every morning upon his rising. The same good missionary says, also, that from time immemorial they had paid adoration to the cross, which was embroidered on their garments, planted in their wigwams, and placed in the bows of their canoes. Their own tradition was that at some remote time their nation was upon the point of destruction from some plague, and that one of their old men dreamed he saw a glorious form bearing a cross, who told him to cause his people to make crosses, which, whosoever received with reverence, should be safe from the pestilence.

Two great causes have prevented the spread of Christianity among the Indians—the bad example of professing Christians, and their own independent thought and keen reasoning powers. “Make the English good first,” said a New England chief of old to a missionary who asked leave to preach to his people. The Indian, moreover, could hardly be brought to believe that he must not apply the reason he was endowed with to the great concern of his life; and it is not to be wondered at if the arbitrary dogmas and doctrines of the missionaries of various sorts failed to find acceptance with grown-up men, whose perceptive faculties were developed from infancy by the training of the war-path and the chase. In this connexion I may refer the reader to the dialogues between Baron Lahontan and the famous Huron chief, Adario, and to the speeches of Red Jacket.

According to the Report of the Secretary of State for 1868, “there is reason to believe that there is general evidence of progress among the Indians of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and improvements in their habits of life.” . . . “An evidence of this will be found in the population return, showing that in twenty-two settlements there is an increase in numbers, and in two only of those from which returns have been received is there a decrease. The sanitary condition of the settlements is, beyond doubt, much better than it was some years since.”

Our two tables from above show the increase of population to have been:—

	1863.	1868.
Iroquois.....	6,552	7,072
Algonquins	16,668	18,601
	23,220	25,673

Increase, 2,453, or about 2 per cent. per annum.

The number of Indians in the Hudson's Bay Territory has been estimated at 42,870, which Professor Hind thought to be one-fourth too great. Of these same 25,000 are prairie tribes, over whom the Company has no control. They assemble at the various posts at the North branch of the Saskatchewan, as follows:— (Hind's Report, 1859.)

Edmonton.....	7,500
Carlton.....	5,000
Fort Pitt.....	7,000
Rocky Mountain House.....	6,000

These prairie Indians belong chiefly to the following tribes:—

Blackfeet.....	13,100
Assiniboines	3,020
Crees	6,000

the rest being principally Ojibwas and, in the Southern border, Sioux.

In 1856, those Indians under the control of the Company frequented the undermentioned posts, as follows:— (Hind's Report, 1859.)

Fort La Corne.....	300	Qu'Appelle Lakes.....	250
Cumberland House.....	250	Shoal River.....	150
The Pas.....	300	Touchwood Hills.....	300
Fort Pelly.....	800	Egg Lake.....	200
Fort Ellice.....	500	Manitobah House.....	200

It is from these Indians (chiefly Plain and Wood Crees and Ojibways) that the Company obtains its furs, and such provisions as are procured by the chase. They are an example of the ease with which good relations may be procured with Indians by moderately fair treatment and absence of fire-water. Some idea of the importance of their industry may be gleaned from Mr. Dodd's address on “The Hudson's Bay Company, its Position and Prospects”—(1866); from which it appears that the annual average gross receipts of the Company, for the ten years ended the 31st May, 1862, were £135,000 *stg.*

The Indians of British Columbia are about 18,000 in number, and belong chiefly to the tribes of the Takallí, Atnahs, Flatheads, Haidah, and Chinooks. All writers agree in representing them to be much inferior to these of the Atlantic slope. Nevertheless, the Hudson's Bay Company has contrived to keep them in some order, and to make them useful. They are also beginning to be made available by the settlers as farm laborers and servants.

Little remains to be done for the Indians of Quebec and Ontario. Their condition will probably improve, and they seem destined ultimately to be absorbed in the growing population of the country; and, by the many good qualities they still possess, to contribute to the formation of a fine people. But we have still left, as Mr. Dawson tells us in his report on the route between Lake Superior and the Red River, a remnant of the red race comparatively unspoiled; and in their behalf I would plead that the experience of the past be not forgotten. We have a chance, at this late day, of testing the value of Champlain's counsel given two centuries and a half ago—“by showing them a good example, to induce them to alter their customs.” We have no wars to employ them in. By the help of the Hudson's Bay Company we can keep ardent spirits beyond their reach, while by our own organization we can do much to restrain, with a strong hand, the bad characters who generally infest new

SUMMARY.—Indians of Canada proper, 25,673; of Hudson's Bay, 42,870; of British Columbia, 18,000; Total,—86,543.