

Indians, and giving indication of what they might effect, if aided by very moderate assistance and encouragement.

I learned subsequently that Pierre was very useful and very obliging as a ferryman, in passing travellers across — Inlet, a broad sheet of water which almost separates Shippegan from the main land. Pierre himself told me that he had not attended the annual meetings of the Micmacs for some years, being afraid to leave his place, even for a single day, as he was constantly threatened to be driven off by settlers in his vicinity, who coveted his improvements and sought every opportunity of dispossessing him. I promised to protect him, and also that I would intercede with His Excellency to grant him licence of occupation for a sufficient quantity of land to cover his improvements and enable him to extend them, which he appeared very anxious to do, and would have done before, but for the uncertainty attending his occupation. I most earnestly and respectfully request that His Excellency will be pleased to grant the required licence to Pierre de Powneville and his family, to which they have strong claims from their industry and good conduct.

We proceeded along the coast to Caraque, where we waited upon the Rev. Hector Drolet, who has pastoral charge of the Pokemouche Indians. We were most kindly and hospitably received by Mons. Drolet, who gave us a variety of useful information, and appeared greatly pleased with the objects of the mission. From Caraque we proceeded to Grand Aunee, and thence crossed the Bay of Chaleur to Paspébiac, in the District of Gaspé. Following the northern or Canada shore of the Bay, we arrived at Cascapédiac, where there is a Micmac Settlement, numbering 89 souls. They occupy a piece of land containing 416 acres, which was adjudicated to them by the Commissioners for settling titles to land in Gaspé. Very little of the land is cleared or cultivated, and the people appeared very poor. They bear the reputation of having been great drunkards and very debauched; but as most of them were this year induced to take the Pledge, it is to be hoped that their condition will improve.

The small number of children at this Settlement (only 28 to 61 adults) is very striking, and affords abundant proof of the irregular and dissipated life which these people have formerly led.

From Cascapédiac we proceeded to Tracadigash, where the Rev. Mr. Malloux resides. He has the Micmacs of Gaspé under his spiritual care, and he receives an annual allowance for his services from the Province of Canada.

We coasted the north shore of the Bay to Point Maguacha, which we rounded, and then entering the Restigouche, we ascended that River about 20 miles to Mission Point on the Canada side, nearly opposite to Campbellton. This is a large Micmac Settlement, numbering 355 souls. These people have only 777 acres of land, with a reserve of 81 acres as a Chapel lot, on which there is a very ancient Chapel, and a tolerably comfortable house for the Missionary. A new Chapel of very large size is in progress, but will not be finished for some time, as the Indians are building it entirely by their own voluntary subscriptions. There are at the Mission thirty framed houses, and about the same number of wigwams.

My object in visiting the Indian Settlements in Gaspé was to ascertain how many of the Indians frequenting the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Chaleur, belonged to Canada. It appeared to me, that by obtaining correct lists of the names of the several families, confusion would be avoided in the returns, and it would be easy to determine precisely how many Micmacs belong to this Province, for whom it would be necessary to make provision. In this I succeeded fully, though not without much trouble and great exercise of patience, but the information thus obtained will prevent difficulties hereafter.

D. C. Napier, Esquire, the Superintendent of Indian affairs, in answer to certain queries proposed by the Executive Council of Lower Canada, (dated 12th December, 1836,) stated that these Micmacs had not received any presents or other assistance from Government, since Lord Aylmer's visit to Gaspé in 1831, and that from their remote situation it was not practicable to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the value and extent of their improvements, or whether they derived their support wholly or in part from Agriculture. In a report made by a Committee of the same Executive Council to the Earl of Gosford, (dated 12th June 1837,) it is stated that the Micmacs living at Restigouche and Gaspé amounted to 430 in number, and that they were among the most destitute Indians of Lower Canada. That considering the remoteness of their situation and the consequent difficulty of exercising any superintendence or care over them when so settled, the Committee recommended that, if practicable, they should be withdrawn altogether from that part of the country, and that lands should be allotted to them elsewhere, nearer to the capital.

Several of the Indians at this Settlement (Restigouche) cultivate the soil, but it is in a very rude and imperfect manner, and the produce they obtain is but trifling. They are generally able and active men, and principally depend for subsistence on the employment they obtain from persons getting Timber on the Restigouche; being excellent axemen and most useful men in the woods, they receive the highest rate of wages, and spend a large portion of the year in the Forest. When the Timber is floated down the River in the Spring, they return to their homes for a time, accompanied by the white lumbermen with whom they have associated in the woods. The latter are in general a wild and lawless race, who,

during their stay at the Settlements and consequent relaxation from labour, very much resemble sailors, allowed to go on shore for a short time after a long cruise, with abundance of prize money. At this period they receive the earnings of the preceding year, and they take up their quarters at the Indian Settlement, with their Micmac acquaintances and fellow lumbermen. The period which elapses ere they again return to their labours in the forest, is spent in drunkenness, riot and debauchery of every description. This annual saturnalia effectually prevents the improvement of the Settlement, and keeps the people in a vicious and degraded state. A considerable proportion of the male Indians being absent much of the year, the women are left to follow their own devices, and to shift as they best can; consequently morality is at a low ebb among them.

The old people at the Mission struck me as possessing very little Indian blood, while the younger portion are so fair, as to raise a doubt whether they should be styled Indians at all,—rosy cheeks, blue and hazel eyes, and brown hair, are quite common among them, while each generation appears fairer than the preceding, so that in process of time, all the distinctive characteristics of the Indian race will be obliterated. At the present time, a large number of persons at this Settlement would readily pass as whites, they being only distinguished from their neighbours by the use of the Micmac language and some peculiarity of dress. The Rev. Mr. Malloux came up to the Mission from his residence at Tracadigash during my stay, and being a person of superior learning and great intelligence, I obtained much valuable information from him. He spends about one-fourth of the year at the Mission, and exerts himself as much as possible to check the vices of the people; but the periodical visits of the lumbermen, and the outbreak which then takes place, in a great measure destroy his labours, and render his exertions fruitless. This year he has succeeded in inducing many of them to take the Total Abstinence Pledge, and I observed by his list, that the number who had done so, amounted to 210. This is a very great point gained, and if all the people at the Mission, as well as at Cascapédiac, can be induced to take the Pledge, then there may be some hope of bettering their morals and improving their condition.

The Micmac language, I was told by Mr. Malloux, is a dialect of the Huron—he says that the Micmac word "Sagamow," or Chief, is pure Japanese, the same word being now used to designate a Chief in Japan. Many other words in the language, he said, could be traced to the Chinese and Japanese languages, and he is fully impressed with the belief that the Indians of North America derive their origin from the Malays and other inhabitants of the coast and Islands of the eastern part of Asia. He is confirmed in this belief, from having heard in Canada, well authenticated accounts of the remains of Chinese junks and other vessels similar to those in use on the Asiatic coast, having been found deeply imbedded in the sand, and on the banks of the rivers of the west coast of America, in northern latitudes, in a state of petrification; thus clearly demonstrating the means and the course by which the Malays and others first reached North America, and peopled it.

While at the Mission, the Chiefs requested me to meet them in Council, and I did so. They stated that the small quantity of land they held, subjected them to very great inconvenience, as they had not sufficient for cultivation, neither had they any firewood; that they had repeatedly applied for more land, without effect, and were now very desirous of being taken under the protection of the Province of New Brunswick, where they understood the Indians had plenty of land, and had their affairs better looked after than in Canada. I explained to them distinctly, that they could not be provided for in New Brunswick, that the lands in this Province had been expressly reserved for the Indians inhabiting it, and that it would be unfair, at this time, to introduce strangers to share with them. That they, at the Mission, had always adhered to the Government of Lower Canada, under whose laws they held their land, and from which they had at various times received presents and gratuities. That if they would give up their lands on the Restigouche, and remove nearer to Quebec, there was no doubt that they would receive more attention from the Government, and obtain some share of the sums annually voted by Parliament for the benefit of the Indians in Canada.

I recommended them to urge their claims upon the Canadian Government, and at their request, addressed a letter to the Superintendent of Indian affairs, at Quebec, stating the object of my visit, communicating the numbers of the Indians, and on their behalf soliciting an answer to certain Petitions for land, which they had addressed to the Governor General.

Lieutenant Rolland's leave of absence having expired, he left me at the Mission, to return to his Regiment, and I proceeded alone down the river to Dalhousie, near which I met a number of Indians encamped on private property. I found that they all belonged either to Mission Point or Cascapédiac, and that their residence near Dalhousie, was only temporary, for greater advantages of fishing and shooting, obtaining a market for a few articles they manufacture, and establishing a claim upon that portion of the Provincial Grant for the relief of aged and indigent Indians, which is appropriated to the County of Restigouche. I cannot for a moment admit that they belong to this Province, as I learned from the Chiefs at the Mission, that their names had been furnished to the Superintendent at Quebec, and were borne upon his list, and that their great object in crossing the river, was to endeavour to