

obtain something from the Provincial Funds of New Brunswick, and claim they are not at all backward in urging.

There are three families who reside constantly on the Reserve at the mouth of Eel River, about five miles from Dalhousie, they number 12 souls. As they have for some time resided constantly within this Province, they may be considered as belonging to us, although they visit the Mission regularly, and are on the Quebec list as claimants for land in Canada. The Reserve at Eel River comprises 400 acres of land of no value for cultivation. The River affords abundance of the finest Eels, and at certain seasons it is the resort of great quantities of water fowl, particularly Wild Geese. There is a very valuable Salmon Fishery near the mouth of the River, and the Indians who reside there obtain a tolerable subsistence by fishing and fowling.

I next visited Bathurst, where I was led to believe the Indians were in considerable numbers, but on enumerating them I found only 27 souls. There are frequently a greater number Indians at Bathurst, but these are generally visitors from Gaspé and the Restigouche, with some from Pokemouche. The list comprises all the regular residents on the Nepisiquit, and I regret to state that they have not yet taken the Pledge, and are a dirty, drunken, idle, worthless set, far more degraded in character, and more wretched in appearance than any of the Indians of New Brunswick. It was almost impossible to hold any communication with them, as they were generally in a state of intoxication, and very insolent and unreasonable. Only one of the Indians at this place, Prisque Wyoush, attempts the cultivation of the soil. He occupies a portion of the Reserve on the Nepisiquit, and this year cut a little Hay, but his Potatoes had failed entirely from the drought or want of care. The rest are outcasts and wanderers, who gain a miserable subsistence by fishing, and by any other employment they can obtain. I have communicated with the Rev. Mr. Egan of Miramichi, with respect to these people, they being within his district, although at a long distance from him. He informs me that it is his intention to send a delegation of the most prudent and sensible Indians of the River Miramichi, to invite the Indians of Bathurst to leave that place, and join the main body of the Micmacs at Miramichi. If the removal can be effected, he thinks that the force of example, as well as frequent admonitions, would induce them to relinquish their vicious habits, and lead a more moral life.

Unless the Indians at Bathurst can be induced to leave that place and join those at Miramichi, there will be little hope of their reformation, and it is an object of some importance to effect that removal as soon as possible.

From Bathurst I proceeded by land to Richibucto, and visited the Indian Reserve on that River, accompanied by the Rev. Joseph M. Paquet, the excellent Missionary of that district. I found, on enumerating the Indians frequenting the Richibucto, that they amounted to 188 souls, and it is highly gratifying to be able to report the steady industry and good conduct of these Micmacs, who are fast acquiring the orderly habits and stability of civilized life.

The Indian improvements on the Richibucto River are scattered along the front of the Reserve, from Big Cove up to the Molus River. Their clearings amount by estimation to 120 acres, on which they raised in the year 1840, 65 bushels of Wheat, 15 bushels of Barley, 2,350 barrels of Potatoes, and they cut 13 tons of Hay. Their crop this year will not fall short of that, although it suffered considerably from the drought. There are here five framed houses, the owners of which live very comfortably in the English style. The interior of the dwellings appeared very clean, and exhibited the usual furniture of a farm house, while the cupboards made a very creditable display of delf, knives, forks, spoons and other articles appertaining to a well ordered household. The ceilings were garnished with ears of Indian Corn hung up to dry, and every thing about the houses, as well as in the wigwams, gave indication of a sufficiency of food, while the dresses of the people were of good quality, clean and comfortable.

A number of the Micmacs on this River have for some years past been employed as labourers by the merchants and others engaged in trade and lumbering, and particularly by John Jardine, Esquire, at whose deal wharves and ship yard they have hitherto had almost constant employment. Mr. Jardine informed me that he found them as useful and profitable men as any he could get; that they were very strong, as well as active, and would do far more work in a day than the ordinary run of labourers. The Indians so employed have acquired steady and regular habits of labour, from working regularly at fixed hours, and to the habits thus acquired, and the force of example upon the rest of their people may be attributed their advances in civilization and the possession of superior comfort.

On the 7th October I met the Indians of this River in full Council, at which Noel John, the Chief at Buctouche, and several Indians from that River also attended. I explained to them the wishes of His Excellency with respect to the management of their lands, the establishment of Schools among them, and the improvement of their condition. The announcement was received with great satisfaction, and they professed their readiness to abide by the decision of the Government, *knowing that their great Mother the Queen would order what was right, and that their Father the Governor would see it faithfully executed.* They desired me to accept from them a confirmation of my election as Grand Chief at Burnt Church Point, and they presented a Commission and Wampum accordingly.

The Indians of Buctouche River amount in all to 93 souls. They have about 100 acres cleared, and last year they raised ten bushels of wheat and 660 barrels of potatoes. There is only one house at their Settlement, that of Noel John, the Chief, who is a man of considerable intelligence and information, and owns some property. The Indians of this River attend more to fishing and fowling than their brethren of Richibucto, of whom they may be considered a part, as they attend annually with them at Richibucto Island on Saint Anne's Day, to celebrate the Micmac Festival, and regulate their affairs.

I presented to Noel John, the Medal delivered to me, for him, by His Excellency.

I returned to Saint John by Buctouche, Shediac, the Bend, and Sussex Vale. On my way I met the Rev. Ferdinand Gauvreau, P. P. at Dorchester, who furnished me with a list of Indians under his pastoral charge at the Memramcook, amounting to 126 souls. The Reverend Gentleman stated to me that they occupied a piece of land containing 63 acres, purchased for them two years since with a sum of £30, granted for that purpose by the Provincial Legislature, which land had been conveyed to the Magistrates of the County of Westmorland, in trust. He also informed me that they had taken the pledge, and were consequently sober and industrious; that they did not cultivate the soil so much as they would do, if they had more land. That they owned boats, and fished in the Bay of Fundy, thereby making out a tolerable living; and that with a very little assistance they might be rendered quite independent in their circumstances.

I have since learned that there are a few Indians at the Aboushagan, a small River emptying into Shediac Harbour; and on enquiry I find that there is an Indian Reserve there, which was not mentioned in the Surveyor General's Return, and consequently did not come under my notice. Dr. Gesner, who recently visited the Aboushagan, states to me that he saw there three men, four women, two boys and three girls, in all 12 souls, whom I have included in the General Return. The Doctor also states that they do not cultivate the soil, but gain a livelihood by fishing and fowling.

The Return, No. 13, herewith annexed, furnishes a full statement of all the Micmacs of New Brunswick, amounting to 935 souls; to which if there be added the Micicetes, amounting by my Return of 12th August last to 442 souls, the whole Indian population of the Province will be found to amount to 1377 souls. The Micmacs frequenting Eel River and Dalhousie are not included in this grand total, they being enumerated among the Micmacs of Canada, whose numbers are given in the annexed Return, No. 14. The Return, No. 15, which follows, is a comparative statement of the number of adults and children at each Indian Settlement, from which it appears that the largest proportion of children exists at Memramcook, (Dorchester) where there are 75 children to 51 adults, from which a very favourable opinion of that Settlement may be drawn. The smallest number of children appears among the degraded Indians of Bathurst, where there are only 8 children among 19 adults. At Cascapedia, (in Gaspé) as I have before stated, there are only 28 children to 61 adults, a frightful decrease in numbers.

This is an appalling state of things, clearly demonstrating the rapid decrease of the Indian race among us, calling loudly for the interference of the Government in behalf of this unfortunate people, the survivors of the ancient possessors and lords of the country, who are fast yielding to the calamitous fate which so often befalls uncivilized man, when brought into contact with the natives of Europe or their descendants.

I learned on enquiry from many elderly people, who stated themselves to be childless, that they had had from 8 to 12 children each, who had died in infancy from measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, croop, typhus, smallpox, and a variety of other diseases to which children are subject. The infants are much exposed by the wandering habits of their parents, who rely almost entirely upon their own modes of treatment with roots and herbs, which are quite useless and ineffective in the majority of cases. During my visit to the Miramichi, the children were suffering dreadfully from dysentery, and while at Burnt Church Point, a death occurred almost daily. Being provided with medicines, I ventured to administer them, and as they gave relief in the first few cases, the Indians were emboldened to use my prescriptions freely, and the further progress of the disease was somewhat checked. Had a medical man accompanied me, I feel confident that, under Providence, many children who this year died of dysentery might have been saved, or at all events had a chance for their lives.

Having in this and my preceding Reports, furnished complete lists of all the Indians of New Brunswick, designated their several Localities, and described their several circumstances, I now beg leave to offer some general remarks with respect to the best means of ameliorating their condition and elevating them in the scale of society and civilization, a subject of grave importance in itself, involving obligations of a deep and enduring character.

The Indians of this Province are at present in an anomalous condition; they are among us, yet not of us, and it seems neither wise nor just to allow in our midst, another race to remain permanently inferior, a burden and misery to themselves, and a barrier to the general progress of the whole community. A late writer in Canada has very justly remarked, "that no plan of general improvement can be complete, unless it includes the means of elevating the Abo-