

the interest and personal safety of every white man in the country, rendered such a course necessary."

Settlement of  
boundaries  
indispensa-  
ble.

Territorial  
rights of In-  
dians.

XXX. It is an object of primary importance, that special negotiations be opened with the United States for the early settlement of all matters concerning the Indians connected with both countries, and that the reformed system of intercourse with them be agreed upon by the two governments, so as to lessen the evils in which Indians will share largely, and which threaten us, from the neglect of those matters along the whole frontier, from Upper Canada to the Columbia river.

In reference to this negociation with our civilized neighbours, respecting Indian affairs, it is indispensable that a collection of existing treaties with those Aborigines be printed without delay. In many cases also those treaties constitute already a reasonable guide to much that only requires to be well followed out in order to place our own relations with them on a satisfactory footing. A treaty is one of the first measures that a civilized government can adopt towards humanizing them. But the observance of treaties is far more important than making them; and it will be a miserable mockery of solemn engagements if they are either to be got by cajolery, and unfair influence, as of late they have been got; or if they are to be dealt with in the way of which the following is not a very rare instance:

"In 1713, the Aborigines of Nova Scotia were carrying their ravages into the heart of New England; and, though by the treaty of Utrecht, Louis XIV. ceded his pretended superiority over the Iroquois, yet at that time the French had obtained such an ascendancy over them, that they declared they would maintain their own independence upon the English.

As to the Aborigines, whose land fell within the cession of territory made to the English by the 12th article of the treaty of Utrecht, as being comprehended within the limits of Acadia, or Nova Scotia; great difficulties occurred in the execution of that article. At length the English signified to the savages, that the whole country had, by treaty, become the property of the crown of England. The savages, though amazed at this, very sensibly complained to Vandreint, the French Governor of Canada, who made use of an evasion, unworthy a man of honour, and yet well adapted to encourage and confirm their dislike of the English; for he told them that no mention was made either of them or their lands, in the treaty of Utrecht. When the Governor of New England, in a conference with them, had convinced them of the truth, one of the chiefs replied, with great spirit, *that his Majesty of France might dispose of what was his own as he pleased, but that the Abenaguais held their land from nature*, and they would maintain their independence to the last child of their nation, who should be left alive."\*

An able writer on colonial affairs, Dr. John Campbell, soon after the conquest of Quebec, urged the justice of obtaining the consent of the Indians to the cession of the Canadas, by France to England;

\* Modern Universal History, vol. xl. p. 180.