

of Great Britain, and yet retain their own laws and usages, some are our subjects, and have no laws but such as we impose.

To this variety in their circumstances must be added a variety as great in their moral and physical condition. They are found in all the grades of advancement, from utter barbarism to semi-civilization.

To propose regulations which shall apply to our own subjects and to independent tribes, to those emerging from barbarism, and to those in the rudest state of nature, is a task from which your Committee would shrink, were it not that all the witnesses, differing as they do upon almost every other topic, unite in ascribing much of the evil which has arisen to the uncertainty and vacillation of our policy. Your Committee cannot too forcibly recommend that no exertion should be spared, and no time lost, in distinctly settling and declaring the principles which shall henceforth guide and govern our intercourse with those vast multitudes of uncivilized men, who may suffer in the greatest degree, or in the greatest degree be benefited, by that intercourse.

The regulations which we would suggest for that purpose are either general or special; that is, they either extend to all parts of the globe in which we are brought into contact with uncivilized tribes, or they apply only to the particular case of some one settlement. In the first place, therefore, we will advert to those general regulations which we have to suggest, and which may be reduced under nine separate heads.

- I.—Protection of Natives to devolve on the Executive.
- II.—Contracts for Service to be limited.
- III.—Sale of ardent Spirits to be prevented.
- IV.—Regulations as to Lands within British Dominions.
- V.—New Territories not to be acquired without Sanction of Home Government.
- VI.—Religious Instruction and Education to be provided.
- VII.—Punishment of Crimes.
- VIII.—Treaties with Natives inexpedient.
- IX.—Missionaries to be encouraged.

Each of these is treated of at some length by the Committee.

NORTH AMERICA.

ON the subject of the relations between the British colonies in North America and the Aborigines on that continent, your Committee abstain from offering any specific suggestions, because they understand that Her Majesty's Government have for some time past