

The peculiar injuries done to the Indians by both French and English exciting them to take part in wars in which they had no interest, but which aggravated all their natural passions of a dangerous and warlike tendency, ceased in 1763. At the same time the English had no longer motives to conciliate them, until the wars with the United States; and our general system was at least as mischievous to the Indians as that of the French.

The result is a reduction of the Indian population of the Canadas, to 43,000, at the highest estimate; *M. Taggart Three Years in Canada*) viz. 15,000 for Lower Canada, and 28,000 for Upper Canada; whilst the white population has risen to more than 900,000 souls. The officially estimated native population of Lower Canada in 1831, was 3437 souls in 687 families. (*House of Commons Papers*, 1834. no. 617 p. 95.)

The exact number of all the above mentioned tribes that received presents in Lower Canada, in 1828, was only 2922 souls, being the supposed mass of the Indian population; in Upper Canada it was only 9457. (*ib.* p. 23.)

Rights of the Indians. V. The rights of the Indians, &c., in their relations with Great Britain depend on the laws of nature and nations; upon the injunctions of Christianity and upon treaties; and those rights are especially to be collected from two documents of high authority, which contain clear declarations of the duty of the Government respecting them. The first concerns them all; the second is limited in terms to the Indians of Canada; but its spirit is general also.

The first document is part of an admirable body of instructions for the guidance of the Colonial Office of Charles II., issued in 1670.

The extract as to Indians is as follows:

"Forasmuch, it is there said, as most of our said colonies do border upon the Indians, and peace is not to be expected without the due observance and preservation of justice to them, you are, in our name, to command all the governors, that they, at no time, give any just provocation to any of the said Indians that are at peace with us," &c.

Then, with respect to the Indians who desire to put themselves under our protection, that they "be received."

"And that the governors do by all ways seek firmly to oblige them.

"And that they do employ some persons to learn the languages of them.

"And that they do not only carefully protect and defend them from adversaries, but that they more especially take care that none of our own subjects, nor any of their servants, do any way harm them.

"And that if any shall dare to offer any violence to them in their persons, goods or possessions, the said governors do severely punish the said injuries, agreeably to justice and right.

"And you are to consider how the Indians and slaves may be best instructed in and invited to the christian religion, it being both for the honour of the Crown and of the Protestant religion itself, that all persons within any of our territories, though never so remote, should be taught the knowledge of God, and be made acquainted with the mysteries of salvation."

The second document is part of the proclamation of 1763, issued by his Majesty George III., upon the conquest of Canada. The extract is as follows: