

barristers and competent statesmen from that interesting and useful class of our fellow-citizens. The Indian himself is a noble type of man, in a very early stage of development. His temperament is for the most part lymphatic. That temperament might or might not be modified by advance in civilization in the course of generations. This temperament, united with the nervous or nervo-sanguine temperament of Saxon or Celt, a type is produced of great staying power, often highly intellectual, vigorous, of quick perceptions and large resource.

There is now barely time to inaugurate a system of education by means of which the native populations of the North-West shall be gradually prepared to meet the necessities of the not distant future; to welcome and facilitate, it may be hoped, the settlement of the country; and to render its government easy and not expensive.

I would respectfully warn the Department against listening to alarmists who would press them to act in a manner which would develop, with tropical rapidity, in every chief, the pestilent character of the demagogue. But as far as we can judge from approximate returns, there are some twenty-eight thousand Indians in the seven territorial divisions covered by treaty. There are about twelve hundred half-breed families. Chief Beardy and Big Bear are malcontent. Beardy's Band is put down in the official returns as not more than thirty-nine. His Band is, however, many times larger than this. We have warlike and excited refugees within our territory. A large statesmanlike policy, with bearings on immediate and remote issues, cannot be entered on too earnestly or too soon.

The Indian character, about which some persons fling such a mystery, is not difficult to understand. The Indian is sometimes spoken of as a child, but he is very far from being a child. The race is in its childhood. As far as the childhood analogy is applicable, what it suggests is a policy that shall look patiently for fruit, not after five or ten years, but after a generation or two. The analogy is misleading when we come to deal with the adult, and is of course a mere truism and not a figure of speech when we take charge of the Indian in the period of infancy. There is, it is true, in the adult, the helplessness of mind of the child, as well as the practical helplessness; there is, too, the child's want of perspective; but there is little of the child's receptivity; nor is the child's tractableness always found. One of the prime conditions of childhood is absent—the abeyance of the passions. Anybody who has tried to educate grown-up civilized men, with untrained minds, as are the minds of most civilized men, will understand the disturbing and dwarfing influence of the complex interests which crowd in on the adult. The Indian is a man with traditions of his own, which make civilization a puzzle of despair. He has the suspicion, distrust, fault-finding tendency, the insincerity and flattery, produced in all subject races. He is crafty, but conscious how weak his craft is when opposed to the