

the Indians from their reservations, may be forthwith abandoned, and the steps which have as yet been taken in reference to them retraced.

However attractive the prize which these valuable lands may present to the cupidity of white adventurers, and whatever may have been the apparent regularity of the treaties, in which an advantage has manifestly been taken of the too confiding disposition of the Indians, we trust that a regard for the national character, and above all for the dictates of Christian morality, as regulating the conduct of civilized towards uncivilized man, will lead not only to the permanent confirmation of the title of the Indians to these valuable tracts of land, but also to the enactment of laws which shall effectually prevent their alienation under any pretext.

As an essential accompaniment of these measures, and without which their benefits cannot be fully obtained, we would claim on behalf of the Indians an immediate and entire participation in the rights of British subjects, and in all the privileges and protection of which that term can be understood to imply the possession.

We apprehend that the Indians have suffered great disadvantages, and that their improvement has been much retarded by their existing as a separate nation in the midst of a civilized community, subject to a regular government, and we are persuaded that if they could, by the opportunity afforded them of possessing all the advantages of British citizens, be induced to amalgamate with the subjects of the Canadian government, and to form a part of the colony, their protection and improvement, as well as the comfort and welfare of their white neighbours would be materially promoted.

And we would suggest, whether thy powerful influence and mediation might not be advantageously employed in inducing them, by kind and Christian persuasion, to lay aside some of their national prejudices, and to co-operate in measures for the attainment of the object to which we have adverted.

As the possession of civil rights must however be comparatively a dead letter, when the parties possessing them are imperfectly informed of their value, it is greatly to be desired that thou wouldst exercise the influence of thy authority and example, to promote the more active and extended operation of those measures which have hitherto proved the most successful in introducing Christianity and civilization amongst the Indians.

The principles of the Society of Friends with respect to the anti-christian character of war, have been often brought before the attention of their countrymen, but we feel that on the present occasion we should be leaving an important duty unperformed, if we did not (besides expressing our fervent desire that thy labours may effectually conduce to the permanent establishment of peace in the Canadas) offer also a special remonstrance against the employment of the Indians in military service, by which they are likely to aggravate the horrors inseparable from all war, and greatly to retard their own emancipation from the savage state.

In conclusion, we wish to express our sincere desire that thou mayst, through Divine favour, witness preservation by sea and land, and that in fulfilling thy important trust, it may be thy chief concern to act in the fear of God, and that his blessing may rest upon thy labours.

Signed, in and on behalf of the meeting aforesaid, held this 24th day of the 3rd Month, 1838.

GEORGE STACEY, Clerk.

The reluctance of the Canadian Indians to remove from their re-