

I fear, be affirmed with truth that the difficult problem of reconciling the interests of an inferior and native race with those of an intrusive and superior one, has, as yet, been satisfactorily solved on this continent. In the United States, the course of proceeding generally followed in this matter has been that of compelling the red man, through the influence of persuasion or force, to make way for the white, by retreating further and further into the wilderness: a mode of dealing with the case which necessarily entails the occasional adoption of harsh measures, and which ceases to be practicable when civilization approaches the limits of the territory to be occupied. In Canada, the tribes have been permitted to dwell among the scenes of their early associations and traditions, on lands reserved from the advancing tide of white settlement, and set apart for their use. But this system, though more lenient in its operation than the other, is not unattended with difficulties of its own. The laws enacted for their protection, and in the absence of which they fall an easy prey to the more scrupulous among their energetic neighbours, tend to keep them in a condition of perpetual pupillage; and the relation subsisting between them and the Government, which treats them partly as independent peoples, and partly as infants under its guardianship, involves many anomalies and contradictions. Unless there be some reasonable ground for the hope that they be eventually absorbed in the general population of the country, the Canadian system is probably destined, in the