

But the steps that had been taken towards a total reform, were decided and effectual as far as they went.

X. A stop, however, was put to this satisfactory course; and the disastrous reaction is traceable apparently to the ^{Reformed system abandoned, and the removal-project begun.} wretched plan of REMOVING the Indians from Canada, which Sir Francis Bond Head so much promoted.

Long and extensive experience has been had of removals of Indians by the influence of Government, and it is difficult to decide whether its impolicy be the more reprehensible, or its injustice the more to be reprobated.

The most important document we possess, in regard to their policy, is a Message of Sir F. B. Head to the Legislature of Upper Canada, dated the 29th of January, 1838; and containing his Despatches of the 20th of August, 1836, and others, respecting the new system substituted for that of Sir John Colborne and others, and Lord Glenelg's replies sanctioning the change.

The first despatch of Sir F. B. Head, opens with the following paragraph:—

"Your Lordship is aware that my predecessor, Sir John Colborne, *with a view to civilize and christianize the Indians* who inhabit the country north of Lake Huron, *made arrangements for erecting certain buildings* on the great Manitoulin Island, and for delivering on this spot to the visiting Indians, their presents for the present year. The INSTRUCTIONS WHICH I RECEIVED FROM YOUR LORDSHIP TO DEFER OR COUNTERACT THESE ARRANGEMENTS, reached me too late to be acted upon; and on the 20th of November following, Sir Francis B. Head states that he had put a stop upon the arrangement of Sir John Colborne at the Manitoulin Island.

It does not appear on whose suggestions these instructions to stop this arrangement of Sir J. Colborne were issued. Sir Francis Head's account of his own proceedings we give in extracts from his despatches, with Lord Glenelg's replies.

Sir Francis Bond Head to Lord Glenelg..

Toronto, 20 August, 1836.

Although I did not approve of the responsibility as well as the expense of attracting, as had been proposed, the wild Indians north of Lake Huron to Manitoulin, yet it was evident to me that we should reap a very *great benefit* if we could persuade these Indians, who are now *impeding the progress of civilization* in Upper Canada, to resort to a place possessing the double advantage of being admirably adapted to them (inasmuch as it affords *fishing, hunting, bird shooting, and fruit*), and yet in no way adapted for the *white population*. Many Indians have long been in the habit of living in their canoes amongst these islands, and from them from every inquiry I could make, and from my own observation, I felt convinced that a vast benefit would be conferred both upon the Indians and the Province, by *prevailing upon them to migrate to this place*.

I accordingly explained my views in private interviews I had with the Chiefs, and I then appointed a grand council, on which they should all assemble and discuss the matter, and deliberately to declare their opinions. When the day arrived, I addressed them at some length, and explained to them, as clearly as I was able, their real interests, to which I found them very sensibly alive.