

Bay Company (rejoicing in a doubtful character from Charles II.) and the North-West Company, which was a development of the Quebec Fur Company, formed under the French auspices of Cardinal Richelieu. The Metis therefore represent, no fault of theirs, an interest which has been rival to that of the British Hudson's Bay Company for some two centuries. It was not till 1821, when the rival companies amalgamated, that even armed contention ceased. From this it appears that the Metis held by force of circumstances until 1821 a virtually hostile position towards all he knew as British institutions. Since then, until 1870, when Canada became possessed of all the rights the Hudson's Bay Company were supposed to be seized of, he has with his Indian kinsman enjoyed the wild liberty of the West; he now finds himself confronted by the advancing civilization of a flag which to him has ever been the flag of the foe. To judge him rightly, therefore, we must put ourselves in his place.

True political expediency is righteousness, and when that is practically acknowledged problems, difficult now, will be readily solved.

Indians and Metis have equal rights with ourselves to an existence on this continent, and as to us belong the superior resources, in other words as we are in the long run, masters of the situation, upon us rests the responsibility of doing justly and loving mercy in our relations with them.

That the Red man and the Half-breed have grievances, which in their semi-barbarous sight are fearfully magnified, is confessedly true. Governments sit in cushioned chambers, the pressure of civilization upon the uncivilized is far away; and while commissioners are considering surveys, and unravelling claims, the game is disappearing, crops fail, and the long winter impoverishes. Tecumseh spoke of his nation as "once a happy race made miserable by the white people always gaining upon them." Black Hawk tells how "he went to the Great Father (the king) and he gave us fair words and great promises, but no satisfaction; there were no deer in the forest; the opossum and beaver had fled, squaws and papooses starve." And this is the pathetic burden of the Indian complaint.

Is there any hope that the Indian can be dealt with as a man, or must he, like the wild beast, of necessity be exterminated? The

*Missionary Herald* of the A. B. C. F. M. has in some measure answered this. It has shown in its reports that the Christianized Indians of the United States are increasing in population; that forty-one thousand can read and write, or one in eight of the entire number, 300,000. In 1868 they occupied but 7,500 dwelling houses; in ten years, 22,300. In 1868 they had under cultivation 55,000 acres of land; in ten years after, 293,000. An increase more than fivefold. This has been largely under mission influence, including Roman Catholic. We have one-fourth of the Indian population of North America in our Dominion. We should justly regard them.

There are many sections of Ontario settled by Europeans less thrifty than Indian settlements in the same province; and, save when the white man breaks his own statute by selling liquor to the Indians, they are peaceable and inoffensive. The 2,500 in Brant appear to have settled down fairly to civilized Canadian life. Their shiftless ones are after all but too like unto our own. When the late Chunder Sen visited England, in his parting address he, in substance, said to the representative audience assembled: "God has given to you English people India with its wealth, and the Bible. India needs the Bible, therefore, in God's name as you hold India give to her the Bible." The same remark applies to our relation to the great North-West. If we require those lands over which Indians and Half-breeds have roamed and hunted for generations unmolested, if before our advancing civilization their traditional modes of life must pass away, it is ours to show them the better way, and not to demoralize, as, alas, we have done, with our whiskey and our vices! That they are stealthy, cruel, goes without saying; their mode of life has cultivated these traits. What have we that we have not received? They too have human capacities. Christ says: Give the bread of life.

At present the stern necessity is upon us of using force. The only compensating thought—and it is a great one—is that our Canadian volunteers have shown themselves men, not only in the readiness with which the call to arms was obeyed, but in their endurance of great provocation and steady courage in tracking an unseen and wily foe. Their blood will not be shed in vain if it ministers to a spirit of Christian patriotism, which acknow-