

To this petition were attached several strings of white wampum, and a few of black; the white to signify peace and good-will, the black expressive of sorrow, and trouble, and war. By sending both the petitioners intended to inform the queen that, while they love her as their head, and rejoice in their connexion with the English nation, they nevertheless have cause of sorrow in the insecure manner in which they hold their small reserves of land, which land they fear will in some future period be taken from them."

The petition was graciously received by her Majesty, and *re-instructions* were sent out by Lord Glenelg respecting the Indian rights. Since which incident unsatisfactory intelligence has arrived from Canada; and we conclude generally that better guarantees than any now existing are indispensable, in regard to lands improved by Indians, and also to secure the due disposal of the price given them for the tracts which they have alienated.

Want of funds. XX. In a subsequent part of this report it will be shown, that the *expense* of various establishments essential to the improvement of the Indian, it is a great obstacle to their progress. But it appears probable that, if their land and its proceeds be duly administered, all difficulty on this head may be removed; and the report of Mr. Charles Buller to the Earl of Durham upon land, already quoted, has opened the way to a sufficient augmentation of those proceeds.

Petition recommen- ded. The sub-committee therefore repeat the recommendation that the committee will procure numerous signatures to petitions to the Queen and to Parliament, to stay the removal project, and to improve the systems at present existing for protecting and instructing the Indians.

For the present, it seems sufficient to justify such recommendation upon the recent experience of Sir John Colborne and others, in favour of the good effect of certain efforts to settle and civilize the Indians.

Civil rights. XXI. Our second point concerns the neglect of means of securing justice to Indians in courts of law, in their participation of civil rights, and in just regulations of trade with them.

The government has neglected the obvious means of securing justice to Indians in courts of law. The report, already quoted, of the Commissioners of Inquiry upon the Indians of the Canadas, declares, that they are disabled by the colonial laws to appear in courts of justice either singly or as tribes, which alone would go far to prevent an uncivilized people in contact with us, ever becoming civilized.

It is not easy to conceive how a barbarous people can accommodate themselves to the usages of a civilized community, when they are studiously excluded from sharing in its laws. The Indians of Canada cannot be witnesses, if they happen not to be Christians. They have no vote; and extraordinary obstacles have been thrown in the way of their holding land in severalty. On these, and the like disabilities, they ought to be forthwith relieved.

It is a remarkable fact, and one that redounds little to our cre-