

rights of our red fellow-subjects, and for urging the abandonment of the proposed measure, of removing them further to the north-west, this meeting thought it right to address the following memorial to him on the subject.

To the EARL of DURHAM, Governor-General of the British Colonial possessions in North America, the Memorial of a Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends representing that body in Great Britain.

AMONGST the numerous objects of great and pressing importance which are likely to occupy thy attention as Governor-General, in the performance of the special mission to which thou hast been appointed at this eventful juncture, the state of the Indians within the limits of the British territories, is one which, from motives of general humanity, and also from a regard to the character of our country for uprightness of dealing and compassion towards the oppressed, has, we would submit, a strong claim on thy serious consideration.

It may hardly be needful, as a plea for our thus coming forward to call thy attention to this interesting subject, to mention, that the Society of Friends, ever since their first settlement in America, have felt a lively interest in the civil, moral, and religious welfare of the Indians. The conduct of William Penn, in founding the province of Pennsylvania, and his care for the rights and interests of the Indians with whom he had intercourse, are early and well-known illustrations of this fact. The members of this Society in England have co-operated with their brethren in America, in endeavouring to protect and to promote the civilization of those Indians who are more immediately brought into contact with our fellow-members in the United States. They are not, however, unmindful of those tribes who reside in the British-North American possessions. Their attention has of late been more particularly arrested to this latter class by the measures which have been adopted with regard to them, and especially by the attempt to dispossess them by treaty of their most valuable reservations in Upper Canada, and to settle them upon the rocky islands of Lake Huron, the soil and situation of which, it is apprehended, will render it impracticable for them to raise by cultivation an adequate supply of provisions for the wants of life. The last annual meeting of the Society of Friends of Great Britain have directed us, as its standing Committee, to keep the subject under our careful attention. We feel that although we have communicated with Lord Glenelg on the subject, we should not be discharging the duty entrusted to us, were we to allow the important and favourable opportunity now presented, by thy special mission to the Canadian provinces, to pass without also addressing thee on their behalf.

We will not attempt a repetition of the many strong facts of an oppressive and injurious character which have come to our knowledge from public and private sources, and which we believe to have been already laid before thee, but we would express our earnest desire that thou wilt be pleased to employ the extensive powers with which thou hast been entrusted, in securing to the original possessors of the soil of Canada, those rights which belong to them, not only as members of the great human family, but in virtue of their just and ancient title, and which Britons as Christians are bound to acknowledge and respect. In particular, we would most urgently but respectfully solicit, that the measures to which we have alluded, and which have for their object the virtual expulsion of

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