

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1872-3.

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Of the more than two hundred and six million subjects of the British Empire,—embracing inhabitants of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America,—renowned for their genius, power, progress and loyalty, we have, in many respects, great reason to be proud of our sovereign's native subjects of Canada. The devoted allegiance of the Indians to the Empire, their loving loyalty to the Queen, and their abiding peacefulness, attract the observation, and form fitting themes of remark by other nations. Their peacefulness among each other, where there were formerly, from time immemorial, fierce feuds and wicked wars; their peacefulness with their Anglo-Saxon successors, from whom, in times past, they have suffered such deprivation and wrongs, appear in marked contrast to the examples of their brother red men of the United States, where intestine wars waste their decaying race, and fearful massacres terrify the frontier inhabitants. Though but a very small proportion of the Indians of the Dominion are brought under the influence of our Society, may we not say that the gospel of allegiance, peace and love which it, in common with our sister societies, has extended to them, has borne no mean part in these great results—that this, in conjunction with the wise and humane policy of our Government, has resulted in the triumphs achieved in winning and keeping the hearts of the wild men of our forests in loyal allegiance and peace? But while there is thus much in the Indians of our Dominion of which we may justly be proud, there is more in us of which an enlightened Indian may well be ashamed. That we belong to a Christian empire, foremost among the nations in sending civilization and Christianity to the remote heathen nations of the world, and yet suffer the great proportion of the aborigines of Canada to abide in paganism, uninfluenced by the civilizing, saving and sanctifying Gospel of Christ, is to our discredit and disgrace, who have been placed here by Providence to bring this portion of the continent under the influence of the Redeemer of the race. But worse than this, men who have nominally been civilized and Christianized have been suffered to introduce among them vices and soul-destroying influences before unknown to them even in their state of heathenism, thus adding greatly to the standing reproach against us in regard to the past, and to their imperative claims that the Gospel of the Son of God be given unto them.

Great as has been our neglect of their pressing claims and eternal necessities, they have not been entirely overlooked and ignored. For nearly