

It would appear, that though when ordered off their lands, they obey without resistance, they are earnest in using peaceable and legitimate means of obtaining redress and justice, so far as they possess the knowledge of such means. Within a comparatively few years, different deputations of Canadian Indians, unsuccessful in their attempts in the province, have come to this country to obtain what they conceived to be the due performance of treaties made between them and the British government. Hesh-ton-a-quet though brought to this country under a false pretext, was prepared to take advantage of the occasion to urge on behalf of his tribe the recognition of their right to a certain island. That recognition had been often sought, but was never granted, though the truth of the statement was not denied. John Sunday, when in this country, related the frequent but constantly fruitless attempts which he had made on behalf of his tribe to obtain the titles of their land.

It must be sufficiently obvious that this treatment is not only calculated to give to the Indians the offence and annoyance which Sir F. Head himself attributes to it, but that it must also increase that uncertainty of tenure, which both checks the disposition to make improvements, and prepares them to listen to proposals and persuasions to abandon their territories, although they have so much reluctance to do this, that they are ready, when able, to become money-purchasers of small plots of their ancient possessions.

It may now be proper to relate some of the particulars of the last acquisition of Indian lands, which has been made by the treaty of Sir F. B. Head. This treaty, and its results, have been repeatedly alluded to as a serious subject of complaint, and at the present time they constitute the most pressing grievance, which calls for the attention and remonstrance of all well-wishers to the Indian race.

Notwithstanding the generally unjust and injurious character of the conduct of the British towards the Canadian Indians, several of those in office, both at home and at the provinces, have been actuated by kind, benevolent, and wise considerations in regard to them. Sir George Murray, Sir John Colborne and Sir James Kempt, merit, in an especial manner, to be respectfully and gratefully remembered, for their exertions on behalf of the Indians. But although such extensive tracts of land had been obtained from these Aborigines, for much less than their value, and though their services had been long continued, faithful, and most ruinous to themselves, an idea seemed to prevail in this country, if not in Canada, that too much was given to them. The expenses of the Indian department were greatly complained of. That there existed great abuses, in the application of a large portion of the sums which passed through that department is not doubted, and that the little good which the Indians derived from that which was justly due to them, afforded grounds for complaint and reform is not to be disputed.

The obtaining of this very necessary reform, was neither the object