

The Indian Department is also laid hold of as a pretext for calumniating the government. It is well known that this cabal seized every opportunity of misrepresenting the government to the Indian Chiefs, and left no means untried to alienate their minds from the country; and it is notorious, that the only symptoms of discontent which have been manifested by the Indians, have been excited by this daring faction. After the most minute inquiry, I can venture to state with confidence, that in all the transactions our government has had with them, either in the purchase of lands or otherwise, they have been paid the sums stipulated in the most honorable manner, and have no complaints against the government. It is true they have suffered considerable losses by the fraudulent conduct of some of their own chiefs or agents, who did not render a just account of the sums they received. I have been present at the distribution of the annual presents, both at Amherstburg and Niagara, and I never witnessed more impartiality than was observed in the distribution of those gratuities, and it was impossible to manifest in a stronger manner their grateful sense of the favors bestowed upon them. I am however far from thinking that the system observed towards the Indians is a good one. It certainly introduces pauperism and idleness, and induces them to look for an eleemosinary support rather than trusting to their own exertions; and it appears evident that they have lost more by the introduction of vices prevalent in civilized life, than they have gained by their connexion with us. It is however much easier to point out the evil than suggest an adequate remedy. These people are now so dependant upon us that they could not probably live without our support, and it appears but just that the European nations who have driven the Aborigines from their former haunts, and circumscribed the limits of their hunting grounds, should grant them some compensation.

Thus