

under trial for any offence against the law. but in this respect a poor Indian is no worse off than a poor white man. indeed he is probably not so friendless. as the Judges in this Colony have always made it their special care that Indians on trial should be at least at no disadvantage on account of their being Indians.

The Magistrates too throughout the Colony are the specially constituted protectors of the Indians against injustice. They are in fact "Indian Agents" in all but the name and I am confident that they have so performed this well understood branch of their duty, that as full a measure of protection and general advantage has been bestowed on the Indians through their agency by Government out of the pecuniary means at its disposal for this purpose as could have been afforded to them through the medium of a special Indian Department.

The Indians have in fact been held to be the special wards of the Crown, and in the exercise of this guardianship Government has in all cases where it has been considered desirable for the interests of the Indians. set apart such portions of the Crown Lands as were deemed proportionate to