

THE *Canadian Gazette*, a paper published in England, says, under date 4th December last, when speaking of the recent Indian excitement in the United States:

“There are, we know, some who are inclined to belittle the claim on behalf of Canada’s policy of kindness towards the Red Indian. The *Speaker*, for instance, makes this week some disparaging remarks about the ‘self-glorifying thought’ touching the superiority of our own methods in dealing with savage races. ‘The Canadian system as regards Indians,’ it says, ‘cannot of itself take high rank among Colonial systems. It is not to be compared, for instance, to the system which has produced the ten thousand well-armed and smartly mounted Basutos, who rode forth the other day to give Sir Henry Loch a loyal welcome. Canada has deprived its Indians of self-dependence, and is now painfully winning them back to what Sir John Macdonald calls self-sustenance. In its essentials and on paper the Canadian system does not differ widely from that of the United States.’ Perhaps not; but the *Speaker* half admits the folly of judging a system solely by its ‘on paper’ results. If anyone wishes to appreciate the vital difference between the Canadian and the United States policy towards the Indian population, let him compare the peaceful development of the Canadian North-west with the bloody series of conflicts which have marked the western march of the white man in the Western States. Had the United States had the misfortune to have a Riel rising, as Canada had four years ago, does the *Speaker* imagine that the United States Indians would have stood firmly on the side of the authorities as did the great mass of the Canadian aborigines? As for the contrast with the Basutos, is it not absurd on the face of it? The Basutos are mentally and socially about as much like the Red Indians as the board-school boy in the fifth standard, is like the beginner who has still to master his A B C.”