

SASKATCHEWAN.**MASSACRE OF CREES BY THE BLACKFEET INDIANS, NEAR THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.**

Many of our readers will remember the graphic description given by the Rev. G. McDougall of the effect produced upon a band of hostile Blackfeet by the approach of a converted Cree Chief, having no other weapon in his hand than a copy of the Bible. We much regret that this devoted Christian, with others of his tribe, has met a martyr's death while engaged in a peaceful embassy to those heathen and war-like people. The following letter from the Rev. G. McDougall, will be perused with sadness by hundreds who are interested in the success of our Missions in the Far West.

Great caution will have to be exercised by our Dominion authorities in the treatment of the Cree, Stoney, and Blackfeet Tribes, before hazarding the lives of settlers, or even sending out engineering companies to survey that vast and fertile territory. Canadian history has hitherto been free from records of collision between the Aboriginal and British races, thereby forming a remarkable contrast with the United States, whose Indian wars are terrible records of revenge and murder. We pass no opinion on the equity of Treaties, but rejoice that peaceful "Councils" have ended in the good understandings which have secured the inhabitants of this country, their homes and families, from molestation. If the Indian has not made the same progress in mechanical arts and agriculture which his more energetic and patiently-plodding white brother has done, his condition has been greatly improved when compared with his former homeless and wandering character.

We are convinced that the religious element has had much to do with the social agreement and peacefully dwelling together of these different races in Canada. Whatever may be thought of civilization, of law, or military power, if these alone are depended upon, then our future schemes of colonization will be marked with collisions and bloodshedding, before any great successful measures can be completed. Some years ago a suggestion was made by this Society to Sir Edmund Head, as to the practicability of forming an Indian Settlement on the Saskatchewan, by persons of good reputation and industrious habits, selected from the different bands in Canada, who might be willing to emigrate. At times there has been a good deal of uneasiness among some of them as to their continued occupancy of their Reserves; and probably in future movements something might beneficially result in practically carrying out such a suggestion. At any rate, it will be the duty of our rulers to respect the rights of the thousands of Indians who now claim that Territory as their own, and by which alone they live, principally through the chase, and the productions of their vast rivers and lakes. If a wealthy Corporation is to be paid three hundred thousand pounds sterling, beside other untold