

abuses mentioned in the proclamation of 1763, have been repeated down to a very late period by the Government itself, instead of being repressed.

We shall prove the unworthiness of this course of neglect and injustice by producing incontrovertible evidence of the capacity of the Indians to become civilized, and of their desire to accept the elements of civilization at our hands, as well to be gradually incorporated with the colonists.

We shall also show that numerous colonists are anxious to promote the civilization of the Indians.

VII. The undue acquisition of the Indians' land, and encroachments upon it, are not new; and the personal appeals of their delegates to the crown have been frequent. More than thirty years ago such a delegate, John Norton, had the countenance of the late Mr. Wilberforce. (*Life of Wilberforce, Vol. III.*) In 1822, the younger Brant and Colonel Kerr, came to London on such a mission for the six nations. Subsequently the Rev. Peter Jones has come over more than once for the Mississaguas of the River Credit, on the like errand. And the visit of Heshtona-quet has shown the Indians of the River St. Clair to be in the same danger.

Other examples might be cited; and it is believed that none have produced proper results. The case however of the River Credit Indians, has some favourable aspects; and it will be mentioned fully.

But these visits have exhibited Indians to the impartial English public most favourably; and they in that respect, as well as in some others to be mentioned hereafter, deserve particular attention.

We pass by the earlier cases of alienation of land from the Indians of Upper Canada, amounting for example in the years 1818, 1819, and 1820, to 4,680,000 acres acquired by the Government for annuities of £3512. (*Martin's North America, Vol. III. p. 261.*)

The sum due annually to these Indians from the Crown for lands acquired from them, was stated in the Parliamentary Papers of 1834, at £5106 Currency, or £4426 Sterling. (*House of Commons Papers, 1834, No. 617, p. 54.*)

Those earlier cases, appear to be more remarkable for general neglect of a proper system of treatment of the Indians, than for any extreme oppression and injustice in the bargains made. They did not involve the REMOVAL of the Indians from the unimproved land sold, and still less the alienation of their improvements and farms. On the contrary, in the year 1823, a general reform of the old system was very seriously contemplated by the Secretary of State of that time, Earl Bathurst. One of your Subcommittee was in fact employed by the Secretary of State in 1823, to draw up a general plan for that reform, which had the approbation of the late Bishop of Quebec, the Honourable Dr. Stuart. But it was not acted upon.

Reform of
System.

VIII. Before 1823, however, a reform was begun by the Government in addition to what had been long doing