

THE CANADIAN INDIAN.

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY, 1891.

No. 5.

IN view of the recent Indian troubles in the United States, which threatened at one time to lead to serious results, and perhaps drag in some of our Indian tribes, the following sketch may prove interesting :

The Sioux have for many years been the most numerous of all the Indian tribes. Seventy years ago, after a century of almost constant wars with the neighboring nations of Hurons and Chippewas, they counted thirteen thousand souls, and since then, in spite of struggles with small-pox, starvation, soldiers, settlers, Indian agents and other torments, they have increased to about fifty thousand. They have in turn resisted the encroachments of the French, the English, and later, of the United States Government, seeking to subdue them and seize their hunting grounds ; but for the most part they retained their control of a wide tract of territory, until within a few years past, during which, a part at a time, it has been obtained from them by treaty and purchase, on terms which have seldom been faithfully kept by the white purchasers. Their original domain was larger than England, France and Germany combined.

When first met by the French explorers and missionaries moving westward of the Great Lakes, more than two centuries ago, the Sioux, otherwise known as the Dakotas, occupied nearly all of what is now Minnesota, North and South Dakota, besides much of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. In 1837, they ceded to the United States all their lands east of the Mississippi ; and in 1851 they made a