

“hardship, cruelty, and flagrant injustice, of which the “Mission Indians have been conspicuous victims.” It is to be hoped our Dominion Government will render full justice to the Oka Indians; and that the troubles which have now so long agitated that reserve may be amicably settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

THE HALF-BREEDS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

OUTSIDE of the Province of Manitoba and the Canadian North-west, very little is known of the Metis and their history—the French half-breeds—a people who have played a prominent part in the history of the country, and who are likely in a few generations to succumb to the superiority of the white settler, and, like the Indians, to pass away into obscurity. Always the friends of the Indians, the early French explorers, traders, and voyageurs, often became identified with their interests and fortunes, and freely intermarried with them. Their mixed-blood descendents retain to this day the instincts of the Indian, blended with and modified by many of the moral and mental traits of the white. It is not the writer's intention here to contrast the French and English colonists in their relations with the Indians. The English, independent of the latter, from whose intercourse they could derive no benefit, regarded them simply as an obstacle to their progress, a natural foe, against which they waged a war of extermination. The French, from the first, recognized in the red man a fellow-being, and as such, entitled to consideration. They treated him with firmness, tempered with justice. Of a more sympathetic nature, the French felt kindly disposed towards the natives, and had less repugnance in associating with them. Their religion, also, as exemplified in the unselfish lives of the early missionaries, must have taught them impressive lessons of tolerance and Christian charity. As a result of their intercourse with the natives, there was not in New France a single tribe whose alliance and friendship they did not win and retain, even long after their power passed away. Having neglected agriculture for barter and trade, the Indians became necessary auxiliaries. Through them furs were obtained, which constituted the trade of the early