

ceded. In September, 1875, Treaty No. V. was made at Beren's River and at Norway House with the Saulteaux and Swampy Cree Tribes, extinguishing their title to the territory all round Lake Winnipeg. Last year treaties were made with the Plain Crees at Forts Carlton and Pitt, covering 121,000 square miles, by which the Indian title over the remainder of the North-west, except the country of the Blackfeet, has been extinguished. The Blackfeet are to be dealt with this year, when Governor Morris' experience of Treaty-making ought to be sufficient to qualify him for dealing with them or even with the Eastern question. The Blackfeet have always taken rank as perhaps the boldest and bravest tribe in America, and it was generally thought that they would give trouble sooner or later; but we have learned that they desire our friendship and protection. Keep whiskey from them, and they keep the peace.

What is the secret of our wonderful success in dealing with the Indian? It can be told in very few words. We acknowledge their title and right to the land; and a treaty once made with them, we keep it. Lord Dufferin has pointed out what is involved in our acknowledgment that the original title to the land exists in the Indian tribes and communities. "Before we touch an acre, we make a treaty with the chiefs representing the bands we are dealing with, and having agreed upon and paid the stipulated price . . . we enter into possession, but not until then do we consider that we are entitled to deal with an acre." It is well that this should be clearly understood, because the Indians themselves have no manner of doubt on the subject. At the North-west Angle, chief after chief said to the Governor: "This is what we think, that the Great Spirit has planted us on this ground where we are, as you were where you came from. We think that where we are is our property." And they have wonderfully English notions about all that the possession of the land involves; that the land includes the buildings on it, and that trespass is not allowable. When Mr.

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