

north-west coast of British Columbia. (2) That it condemns the partiality of Government officials in seeking to prefer one Church to another, and the attempt made by them to cast all the odium of their iniquitous policy upon the missionaries of the Methodist Church. (3) That this Conference, for the purpose of bringing the matter under the serious consideration of the whole Methodist Church, appoint a committee consisting of the President of the Conference, Rev. Jos. Hall, Rev. J. E. Starr, Alex. Peers, Thos. Cunningham and Dr. Kent, to prepare a memorial regarding the matter, and forward the same to the secretaries of the different Methodist Conferences in Canada; and (4) That this Conference recommends to the General Board of Missions the advisability of immediately sending a commission to Port Simpson, Naas River, and the Skeena River, to thoroughly investigate and lay the matter before the proper Government authorities, so that our missionaries may be exonerated, and the aspersions cast upon our Church removed.

"In support of this resolution a large number of the members of the Conference spoke. Rev. A. E. Green, of Naas River, mentioned that this question had been before the public for years, and the Governments had been perpetually promising that the rights of the Indians would be carefully protected. Hitherto these promises had not been fulfilled. For a long time the Indians received the assurances of Government agents in good faith, and patiently awaited the time when their land titles would be settled and their grievances removed, but of late years they had almost given up this hope, and some times the missionaries had found it extremely difficult to pacify them. When the commission appointed to settle these grievances came up it showed itself so partial that the Indians became distrustful of its good intentions. While ignoring the Methodist Indians, who comprise five-sixths of the population, it showed great anxiety to conciliate and please the few who belonged to the Church of England. The report endeavors to make it appear that the interests of the Church of England are larger than the facts will justify, and the Methodist interests smaller; and he was prepared to prove that deliberate attempts had been made by the enemies of our Church to stir up strife among the Indians, so as to give color to the imputation that missionaries were not teaching loyalty. Rev. Thos. Crosby spoke next, and endorsed the statements of the previous speaker. After citing a number of instances of conspicuous favoritism, he said the Indians declared that if Bishop Ridley went to reside at Port Simpson, as it was rumored he intended to do, the whole band would leave the country. Relying upon his confidence in his own kindred, he had promised the Indians that justice would be done them. Rev. J. E. Starr made a strong speech in which he pointed out the insinuations of disloyalty against the Methodist missionaries which were found in the commissioners' report. The cause of these Indians, he said, had assumed a national character, and this Conference should make the nation ring with the recital of the injustice that was being practised upon a helpless people who were the original owners of the soil. Either this question must be settled, or there would be bloodshed or expatriation. Rev. D. Jennings charged the Government officials with having publicly stigmatized the Methodist missionaries. He mentioned the case of a judge who, when criticized for his unfair-

ness, replied: 'I am a member of the Church of England and must support the clergy.' Rev. W. H. Pierce stated that when an epidemic was raging among the Methodist Indians, and about 200 of them had died, he applied to the Government official for medicine, but it was refused, although abundant supplies of medicine were sent to the Indians belonging to the Church of England, of which there were only two or three families at the time. Other facts were stated by a number of speakers who followed."

"We feel safe in assuring our readers that this matter will be thoroughly sifted, and the responsibility put where it properly belongs. That the Indians in British Columbia have been shamefully treated, in many instances, no one conversant with the facts can deny, and it is high time the whole Government policy in that country was unveiled in the light of the sun.

#### A BRIGHTER SIDE.

AMID the shadows on the Skeena River work, there is still much to cheer. Bro. W. H. Pierce, our missionary at Kit-ze-gucla, on his return from Conference wrote to the Rev. J. E. Starr as follows:—

"PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

"June 19th, 1888.

"Dear Bro. in Jesus,—Since I returned from our Conference, I have been very busy in our meetings. You will be glad when I tell you that crowds of people from heathen villages are coming to Jesus now. Every Sabbath our church is well filled, and there was a gracious influence of the Holy Spirit felt in our midst which caused our hearts to rejoice. Well, brother, God has turned our villages upside down. He has put down heathenism by His mighty arm, and His Gospel hammer has broken the strong hearts of the people to pieces. Old and young have declared for the new way. Prayer and praise come from those who seem too far gone to recover. Bless the Lord, the days of miracles and wonders have not ceased. May our blessed Master carry on His great work until all my poor brothers shall be turned from their darkness to the light and liberty of Jesus Christ our only Saviour.

"Mr. Crosby was here a few days ago, on his way over to Queen Charlotte Islands. Fourteen large canoes came over last week from the Haidah country. The great fighters amongst them are truly converted, and they are witnesses of the power that is in the Gospel. One old chief said, in one of our meetings last week: 'Only four years ago I used to carry gun and knives under my blanket, if I walked among you, ready to kill anybody, but since the Methodists came over to our country and told us what Jesus, the only Son of God, has done for us, our hearts have been truly changed. Instead of gun and knife in hand, now I carry the Bible and the Gospel hymn with me.' It would do you good to see them stand up by fours and fives at the same time to tell to others what a great Saviour they have found. Several of Mr. Duncan's people joined our Church last Sunday. Some of them have been over to Alaska. Thirteen of them were