

merchandise. In another point of view, they were *well* prepared, viz : they were on the best of terms with the numerous tribes of Indians, not only in Canada, but many on this side of the line ; as the British Government pursued a course calculated to attach the Indians to their interests. Their treaties with their red brethren were always strictly kept, and no Indian agent was allowed to defraud them ; consequently their supplies were of the best. For one hundred years they have had little or no trouble with their Indians, although the British possessions are full of them. There the trader was safe at his post in the wilderness, and the Poman Catholic Priest on his mission through their midst. I would say here, how different has been the course and results with us since we have been a Government. The answer might be given thus :—badly kept treaties, corrupt Indian agents, miserable supplies, and a vacillating policy. Thus, the consequence is, bloody Indian wars, at a cost of thousands of lives and millions of money ; and, from the present out-look, no likelihood of getting better.

On the American side of the line, say from Black Rock on the Niagara River, to Sault St. Mary's River, the outlet of Lake Superior, things were in a poor condition to go to war with our neighbor. A sparsely settled country, with all the wants and deprivations incident thereto, full of wandering tribes of Indians, the object of whom was, with few exceptions, to watch the chances, and were ready the moment war commenced, to plunder and massacre. To show how deficient we were in the way of postal communication, the first news of the declaration of war along the frontier west of Black Rock, N. Y., was through Canadian dispatches to their several posts. When