

As regards the pecuniary consideration for this transfer—retrocession, rather—of dominion over their rich heritage, with the extinction of title that was worked, the covenanting Government—as have successive Governments, each pledged sacredly by its predecessor—stood in the relation of trustees for the Indian re-grantors and their posterity. Uninterruptedly accounting therefor in the past, they still continue to apportion to each individual Indian, through the agency of the local Indian superintendent, at so much per capita of the population, the interest arising from the investment of the money. There can be no diminution of the capital sum, unless the amount is sought to be applied to objects of Indian concernment, and then only with the sanction and consent of the chiefs of the tribes in Council. Alike as custodian, and as the channel for the distribution, of this fund, the Government, recognizing their immense responsibility, are careful to see that it is wisely husbanded—is kept intact, as far as possible. Projects will, now and again, be devised by the Indian, that signalize a want of providence or foresight; others that seem born of hasty, immature reflection—projects, moreover, to confirm which, permit the outlay that would attend which—might lead either to an improper diversion of, or material