

disquisitions, and that of the present in Montreal, though not on so extensive a scale, has not been behind it in real value. Perhaps, on the whole, there was more of spiritual power this year than last. Many of the earnest Christian workers of the time were present and could not fail to impart a spiritual tone to the Conference. It was stated that the next conference would be held in Rome. Such a meeting, in such a place, will be a real sign of the times.

England has always dealt generously and honorably by the Red man, and has been amply recompensed by the loyal attachment and hearty service of the most powerful of Indian tribes. One of the most interesting developments of the British, as opposed to the American mode of dealing with the Indian, has been the conference held with various tribes of the great North-West by the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. It is fortunate that a record, at once faithful and spirited, has been preserved of these negotiations. We learn exactly what the Indians think of matters respecting which we scarcely expected they would think at all, and we see how amenable they, like other men, are to reasonable explanations. They have evidently, in that region, been accustomed to identify the Hudson Bay Company with the British Government, and the idea of a power superior to the power of the Company was very hard for them to conceive. It took, apparently, some days of conference with the Governor, and much conversation amongst themselves, to get the idea well into their minds. They shewed a very considerable amount of jealousy against the Company, which could scarcely have been expected, considering all that the Company has done for them. But gratitude is an uncommon virtue everywhere, while jealousy is a common vice. In these respects the Indian is like only any other man. The diplomatic skill shown by these untought sons of the prairie and the forest would have done credit to any white people. They excused themselves, they temporized, they delayed. Their speakers were not ready, or they had not fixed upon

a speaker; or there was some obstacle in the way, without the removal of which they could not negotiate. The Governor managed his part of the business with very great tact and judgment. He combined a reasonable consideration for the Indians with a steady maintenance of his own position. He appealed to their strong family affection, and to the advantages to be derived from the terms offered by children who would come after them. He pointed out that the buffalo was fast disappearing, and that it would be much to their advantage to cultivate the land in the same way that their brethren were doing in Ontario. He stated that any terms consented to by him on behalf of the Queen, their Great Mother, would be held inviolably sacred, and that they might go to their homes or hunting-grounds with a full assurance that every promise made would be held good for all time to come.

It transpired in the course of the negotiations that the Indians conceived themselves entitled to the £300,000 which was paid to the Hudson Bay Company for a cession of their rights. The land, they said, was theirs, and if the Government bought it, the purchase money belonged to them. The Governor, in reply, pointed out that many generations back the English Government, who were the real owners of the country, had made certain arrangements with the Hudson Bay Company by virtue of which this Company had had exclusive possession of the country for trading purposes; that now these exclusive rights were taken away and trade thrown open to everybody, and that for thus surrendering their rights the Company ought to receive compensation. This argument seems to have satisfied them, and they finally consented to the terms offered, which comprise an annual money payment to every individual of certain tribes, an offer of a square mile of land to every family of five persons, and a promise of agricultural tools to all who made a *bona fide* commencement of farming; the Indians to have the right of hunting over unoccupied grounds in the meantime. A treaty was drawn up and signed in accordance with these provisions, and, now, settlement can