

and pointed out the sanguinary consequences of disregarding their rights, whilst he appealed to the public sense of justice in their behalf, as capable of being humanized by wise and vigorous measures.\*

This correct view of the rights of the natives of North America was no new doctrine. It had been maintained in the 17th century by the friends and immediate predecessors of William Penn; and, in the 16th, by Las Casas; and we shall do little if we cannot now convey our sense of the binding power of such eternal laws of justice to the foot of the throne and to Parliament, with an energy proportioned to the urgency of our cause.

The reckless disregard of these principles, which has generally marked our subsequent intercourse with these tribes, must be abandoned; and there must be substituted for it a steady respect for their independence, which will probably be exerted to promote their own improvement; and, if we act wisely, to *incorporate* them gradually with Great Britain.

XXXI. The evils thus disclosed are mainly, we think, attributable, less to the character of the Indians, than to that of our own proceedings relative to them.

*Remedies suggested for existing evils.*

XXXII. The foregoing facts show, that Indian affairs are administered upon a wrong system; and that not only the measures affecting the Indians are defective, but that the colonial and home governments require a specific, although not extensive modifications. The abandonment of processes of civilization, long carried on successfully as far as they went, together with the adoption of the project of *removing* the Indians, could not have occurred, if but ordinarily good provision had existed, either in the colony, or in the Colonial Office in Downing Street, to give its full weight to the truth; and to insure them justice. To prevent such errors in future, effectual checks must, we think, be imposed upon the local governments; and the Secretary of State, who necessarily acts through subordinate instruments, should be preserved from an undue bias, and from prejudice, by new arrangements in his office.

An additional Under-secretary of State, expressly devoted to the affairs of the Aborigines, will we think form the most suitable assistant to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that could be devised. In addition to this new Under-Secretary of State for the Aborigines, there should be appointed, *for them*, an agent at home, whose duties should resemble those of ordinary colonial agents.

But we must not rely either on official protectors, who cannot every where be present, who may become supine, and who by possibility may be deceived or corrupted; or on the appointment of an additional under Secretary in the Colonial Office, whom information

\* Modern Universal History, p. 250.