

States of the Union to the south—is due to the honourable and judicious treatment the red man received at the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company in the past, and to the wisdom of the Dominion Government in making fair treaties with him for the maintenance of his rights, and faithfully carrying out their part of them. Six treaties, in all, were made with the Indians; but as I am unable here to-night to go into any particulars concerning them, I will merely say that certain sums of money, accompanied by clothes and provisions, are distributed each year by the Government amongst the different tribes, and reserves are laid out on which the Indians are expected to live, thus leaving the rest of the country for undisturbed settlement. The Canadian Government have, moreover, established Indian schools throughout the country, in which the young Indians are taught and trained, and in this way the position of the Canadian red man will, it is hoped, be greatly improved in the near future. The Indians of the Canadian North-West will never, I believe, become thoroughly civilised, yet it is pleasing to note that they are making progress in farming and domestic life, which is astonishing when compared with that of the tribes south of the boundary line. The mounted police—though few in number when one thinks of the vast country under their charge—have, more by moral influence than physical force, taught the Indians to respect the laws of the land; and thus there is no Indian problem to solve in Canada, as there is in the United States. In these efforts of the Indian to adapt himself to the altered circumstances of the time, he is receiving much encouragement from the Canadian Government. The Premier, Sir John A. Macdonald has recently introduced into the Dominion Parliament a Bill by which a system of councils provides some measure of local self-government among the tribes; and this cannot but be regarded as a step in the right direction in their education for the duties of citizenship. Experience has taught the red man that so long as he is in British territory the same justice will be meted out to him as to the white man. Were it not for this strict impartiality no such small body of men as the mounted police could preserve order in so vast an extent of country as the North-West territories.

I could give you many interesting narratives of my experience amongst the Indians, but I fear to occupy too much of your time. One incident, however, I may give to illustrate their sense of gratitude. An old chief named Nichy, and his squaw, used regularly to visit the house of one of my friends, and his wife as regularly sent them away with a supply of tea, tobacco, scraps, and any cast-off clothing she had to spare. Some time afterwards the lady became very ill, and was confined to her bed for some three or four months, during which time Nichy was, of course, unable to see her. It was noticed, however, that he and his squaw came prowling about the house as if to try to catch a sight of her. One day, when the lady was convalescent, Nichy crept up,