

terms." The Indians were not a party to this compact, but by the treaty of Hopewell, in 1785, every intruder upon their lands should "forfeit the protection of the United States, and the Indians may punish him or not, as they please." A portion of the Cherokees, having made some progress in civilization, declined to emigrate, and organized a government of their own within the State. The subject of their removal was everywhere discussed, and was carried to the Supreme Court. The policy of removal was adopted in 1830, Congress authorizing the President to *solemnly* assure the tribes, with whom the exchange was made, that the United States would forever secure and guarantee to them and their successors the country so exchanged with them, and, if they preferred it, would cause a patent or a grant to be made and executed with them for the same, and also to cause them to be protected against all interruption or disturbance from any persons whatever. Several years were occupied in the removal of the Cherokees, which was the occasion of much sacrifice, suffering, and loss of life to the Indians.

It is needless to say that these solemn guarantees were disregarded, and that many of these removed tribes have been obliged to abandon their new home and its improvements by the constant pressure upon them from without. Of all the tribes removed to Kansas by the act of May, 1830, but a bare handful remains. Except in the case of the Cherokee lands in the Indian Territory, our government has never attempted to vindicate its honor by keeping its word with the Indian. He has no vote, no political influence.

The policy of removal has at all times resulted disastrously to the Indians. Its effect has been to perpetuate barbarism, and it has also been a fruitful source of corruption. The removal of the Santee Sioux and the Winnebagoes from Minnesota in 1863, as narrated by ex-Indian Commissioner Manypenny,¹ is a sickening recital, but it is only one of many similar instances of cruel wrong. The failure of the system was apparent from the outset. It failed to take into the account the inevitable and rapid pressure of advancing settlements and enterprise. The old story will be repeated wherever there is a large and valuable Indian territory surrounded by white settlements. Railroad extension will only accelerate the catastrophe. Even the Indian Territory, guaranteed to him by solemn treaty, has to be patrolled by United States troops to keep off persistent white invaders. It did not benefit the Indian, and brought but temporary relief to the country. The reservations proved to be such only in name. The Black Hills territory belonged to the Dakotas a few years ago. Adventurers crowded in in pursuit of mineral wealth, and sacred covenants of the nation were broken. The system has not secured to them permanent homes, has not preserved them from molestation, has not improved them physically or morally, and has not relieved the government of care and expense. The Indian is forbidden to wander from his reservation, and it is forbidden ground to the whites, thus isolating him from the rest of mankind; and, being fed and clothed by the government, all stimulus to self-support is necessarily wanting.

¹ Our Indian Wards, pp. 135-141.