

one white official of the Government is living in adultery with Indian women. That he does not attempt to prove; but he goes on to quote from the Toronto Mail the complaint of a missionary that white *men* purchase Indian girls from their parents for immoral purposes. The narrative is so constructed as to induce a belief that the white men charged with buying these Indian girls are officers of the department, and that a respected clergyman proves the offense. Now it is true enough that some white men in the North-west have acquired wives by purchase. That is the Indian mode of acquiring wives. No young Indian ever dreams of getting a wife except by purchase. No Indian father ever dreams of letting his daughter leave his wigwam till he has received a valuable consideration for her. White men have gone to the North-west, have acquired Indian wives and have paid for them after the manner of the country. And doubtless if the Government should forbid the continuance of that custom the Indians would indulge in louder protests than any their "chronic habit of grumbling" has yet induced them to raise. But, with the two exceptions noted above, the men who have thus purchased Indian wives are not officials of the Indian department.

A number of general charges of immorality and incompetency are made by Mr. Cameron, and in support of these general charges he quotes from missionaries and others. The Rev. Mr. Cameron is reported by some unnamed person or paper to have said that the agents were brutal in their treatment of the Indians; and the same anonymous authority says :

Mr. Cameron's statements were confirmed by the Rev. Messrs. Robertson, Flett and other missionaries, who maintained that the Indian revolt was in a great measure due to the character of the Government officials sent amongst them.

Mr. McDougall is reported to have said that "unfit men were appointed to office, without any knowledge of the nature of the work expected of them." Another extract is