

permanent homes for, and provide the means to colonize them thereon. Such reservations should be selected with great care, and when determined upon and designated, the assurances by which they are guaranteed to the Indians should be irrevocable, and of such a character as to effectually protect them from encroachments of every kind."

The absorbing topic, at this time, in Congress and the country, was the slavery question, and the toleration or prohibition of the institution in our new acquisitions lying south of 36° 30' north latitude. The partisans in this controversy, which convulsed the whole country, had no dispute in relation to the Indians. It is true they had but recently owned the <sup>161</sup>country about which this fierce controversy was waged; and, although in one way and another, much of it had been wrested from them, no satisfactory arrangement or adequate provision had been made with them for their future protection and care. Treaties with many tribes had been made; but these were not ratified for some time after this period. The pro-slavery and free-soil champions failed to see any thing wrong in this unsettled condition of the Indian race. Indeed, to those who observed closely, it was difficult to decide which of these parties was the most oppressive and cruel in its conduct toward the red man. It was no uncommon thing to see representative men of both parties, while in violent hostility on the question of "free soil," in Kansas, participating in, and enjoying, the plunder taken from the Indians. Such seemed to have as little scruple in invading the rights of the Indians as they would feel remorse in treading on a reptile in their path.

~~Without going into the detail it may be stated that the flow of population~~

~~which continued~~

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/ "These Indians saw their former homes and hunting grounds overrun by a greedy population thirsting for gold. They saw their game driven east to the plains, and soon found themselves the objects of jealousy and hatred. They, too, must go. The presence of the injured is too often painful to the wrongdoer, and