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The Indian; Right and Wrong.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ALL MEN are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these, are LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."—Declaration of Independence, July 4th, 1776.

IS IT AN INDIAN BUREAU?

About Some of the Freaks in the Employ of the Indian Service.

Whose Actions are a Disgrace to the Nation and a Curse to the Cause of Justice.

PUTRESCENT THROUGH THE "SPOILS SYSTEM."

The following graphic description of some of the authorities of the Indian Bureau and the menial and unprincipled influences surrounding them, etc., etc., is taken from the columns of "The Nation" of March 15th, 1888. It develops a deplorable state of affairs, that is a shame and disgrace to the honor of the Republic, and whose influence, gnaws as with the taint of leprosy, the moral virtue of Christian civilization; a curse to humanity and justice, cruel, arrogant—damnable—since it is practiced at the sacrifice of the moral and social welfare of those who cannot complain and who are too weak to remonstrate.

The heart of Christian humanity may well bleed and Justice stand abashed, and cry SHAME, when the nefarious vocation of the intollerant upstarts of jobbery, corruption and fraud are permitted to flourish at the sacrifice of the interest of the helpless, the poor and the ignorant. And this too, 'neath the very shadow of Liberty's dome surmounting the National Capitol.

"Something needs to be done, and done promptly, about the Indian service, and the only thing that can be done to secure reform is the extension to this service of the civil service rules. The matter has more than once been laid before the President by the Indian Rights Association of Philadelphia. He has not questioned the accuracy of these reports, and he has acquiesced in the opinion expressed by Mr. Oberly, that he has the power, under the law, to extend the operation of the rules of this service. Nevertheless nothing has been done. All the recent accounts of the doings at the agencies go to show that the

Spoils System Never Flourished as Vigorously

anywhere than it flourishes there. Nevertheless, nowhere is it such a disgrace to the nation. The helplessness and ignorance of the Indians constitute the strongest possible claim on the Administration for care in the appointment of those who are to look after them. Political hacks are bad enough in the post-offices and custom-houses of white men, but in these places they are impositions on people who ought to be able to take care of themselves. Putting them in charge of the Indians is

A Fraud on the Helpless and Poor!

The root of this trouble (and if the President does not know it, it is time he did) is that Mr. Atkins, although personally a most respectable man, is much too simple-minded and good-natured for his place. The REAL Indian Commissioner is not he but Mr. Upshaw, his assistant. It is Upshaw who manages Indian affairs, and he manages them NOT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INDIANS, but for his Own benefit and that of the "party." Nearly every appointment in the Indian service is made

by him, or comes direct from him, and is turned to his account in some way. Under his system, he manages to place Senators and Congressmen under PERSONAL obligations to him. We are informed that when he hears of their election, he writes to them, asking if they need anything in his line, or, in other words, whether they would like to plant a henchman in the Indian service. It must be said for him, however, that there is nothing partisan in his operations. He "tenders" his good offices to Democrats and Republicans alike, and he consequently has abundance of friends in both parties ready to certify in the hour of need that he is "one of the ablest executive officers in Washington." In short, he lives on terms of CLOSE INTIMACY with the MAMMON OF UNRIGHTOUSNESS.

Now, it is Time He was Overhauled.

If the President means to put an end to the GREAT DISCREDIT the Indian service has been bringing upon his Administration, and destroy the ammunition it will furnish to his enemies next summer, he must begin with Upshaw. There can be no change for the better as long as there is a man in Upshaw's place more occupied with obliging Congressmen than taking proper care of the nation's wards, or a man in Mr. Atkins's place who is willing to let Upshaw have his way.

The effects of the "Upshaw system" began to show themselves as early as 1885. Things have not mended since then. They have grown worse. Such things always grow worse merely by continuing, like any sore, physical or moral. No bad man or bad practice maintains for any length of time the same degree of badness. Mr. J. B. Harrison, whose competence and high character as an observer are well known to readers of "The Nation," visited the Indian boarding school on the Yamax reserve, in southern Oregon, in the summer of 1886. He found in charge of Prof. Leeke, an admirable man whom any other civilized Government would think itself lucky to get in its service. When his term expired, Upshaw got rid of him promptly. Prof. Painter, who visited the Territory last summer on behalf of the Indian Rights Association, found some Government boarding schools in which as many as four successive superintendents had served in one year. The condition of some of the schools under "Upshaw's system" he reported as deplorable.

In fact, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that the

Indian Service Has Suffered as no other department of the Government has done from the change of administration in 1884. It has, as far as we can ascertain, all come from the fatal error of putting a weak man at the head of the Bureau, and giving him a smart, active, unscrupulous, and energetic politician to do his work for him. The President cannot have meant this, but he cannot afford to let it go on. Upshaw is too expensive a person for any administration to keep in the house. He cannot get votes out of the Indians, and

He Disgusts Thousands of Voters who wish well to President Cleveland's Administration, but to whom CRUELTY, JOBBERY AND CORRUPTION are never so odious as when practiced on those WHO CANNOT COMPLAIN!"

That the Indian service has suffered under the "Upshaw (and we might add 'Sheehan & Co's) system," no intelligent person, conversant with the affairs of the White Earth reservation, for the past three years, can consciously deny. Let any person who may

have visited this reservation, six or eight years ago, and noted the then universal spirit of thrift and enterprise pervading all the industries engaged in, and the general mutual good feeling prevailing among the people at that time, come here now, and see what an unqualified "system," managed by willful and unscrupulous influences, has done towards paralyzing—demoralizing—the honest motives and efforts of the Ojibwas towards a progressive civilization! Abused confidence, personal, official and "party" interest have ploughed deep furrows of disappointment in the bosom of budding ambition, hopes and efforts! And in its cruel wake, sown the seeds of turmoil, misery, waste and despair.

The revolting ignomy, and uncharitable actions, of unscrupulous officials and their cringing henchmen, against many of the intelligent people of this reservation, (who protested against the diabolical intrigue and machination of jobbery, fraud and intolerance) are yet fresh in the memory of the intelligent reader of the Progress, and we refrain further allusion to the subject. We earnestly hope that the day of 'better things,' is near 'onto the dawn,' when the Indian bureau will be purified and under the supervision of qualified, liberal and intelligent authority; a fit abode for the sacred virtues of Charity, Justice and Humanity, and not as it has been, in many instances and to the sorrow of our fair reservation, a lucrative field for the bombastic official autocrats and upstarts—a refuge for moral assassins.

I TELL you that women, as a rule, are more faithful than men—ten times more faithful. I never saw a man pursue his wife into the very ditch of dust and degradation, and take her in his arms. I never saw a man stand at the shore where she was wrecked waiting for the waves to bring her corpse back to his arms, but I have seen woman with her white arms lift man from the mire of degradation and hold him to her bosom as if he were an angel.—Robt. Ingersoll.

So you have read in the papers of a drink that Lincoln took, have you? Well, my boy, I've read of it too, and I'm not going to say that the papers are false or mistaken, but there's another drink Lincoln took that mighty few of the nowadays newspapers have ever tried, and it's the one I would paternally prescribe for you and press to your youthful lips. He drank deep of liberty and patriotism from the chalice of a nation's cup of joy, even though it bore the dregs of bitterness. No, you can't remember it, and perhaps 'tis well you can't, but when you hear again of a drink that Lincoln took, call the attention of your informer to the fountain in whose waters were washed away the stains of shackles from four million slaves. Explain to him, my boy, that such a drink never makes a man's hat too small, and that of all beverages known to the profession this one is the best for the blood.—Duluth Paragapher.

Lincoln! Venerated Martyr of Liberty! Had he lived, America's red children might sing his praise to-day as does the more favored scions of its Citizen and Freemen.



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