

previous condition. But as all rights, privileges, and immunities do not, practically, come directly to one out of the Constitution and Statutes of the United States, but are filtered to him with more or less freedom and purity through the surrounding community, and as the success of this bill lies with the border whites, it has been thought best to mark off, historically, the leading and constant obstacles heretofore to Indian civilization. Hence this unpretending treatise. Only official documents are used to give it force.

No law is self-operating; somebody must use it favorably, if the subject of it has its advantages; and intermeddling opponents must be held in check by hands friendly to the end of the law. Hitherto statute provisions for the Indians, and often wise and good, have been made powerless by a third party intervening between the government and the Indians—interested, scheming, self-seeking white men, on the border and in Washington. There was once a white border belt, poorly civilized, and with many in it decivilized, but now, interpenetrating and commingling, these men have quite destroyed border-lines.

Hitherto the work of the general government and of benevolent organizations, in the lines of education and of religion, has been thwarted