

## INTRODUCTION.

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SÉRIOUS trifling with the Indian question seems to be coming to a close. The "nations" of colonial times, and the "high contracting parties" whom the Republic met as apparent equals during its first ninety years, have come down to draw rations under the drum-beat, or to be blanketed and continental tramps. In the last analysis of the Indian, in Congress and on the border, he is discovered to be simply a man, and more or less like all Americans; and the recent and so far final proposition is to treat him as an American. In coming to this we have had a tedious, annoying, nugatory, and mortifying series of theories, experiments, and makeshifts. Meanwhile, there has been an apparent decline in their numbers, from the highest official maximum, of "about 300,000," in 1872, to 259,244 in 1885.

We are now entering an era of hope for the Indian, under the Dawes Bill; and though he is at first to have a qualified citizenship in passing out of the state of a ward, his rights are not to be abridged on account of race or